

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5,
with 5 being the
highest, how would
you rate the quality
of life in the CNMI
right now?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Wiretapping Rules

President Bush signs a bill that overhauls rules about government eavesdropping.

NATION...Page 10



DOLE Aid

The Department of Labor and Employment says it has started preparing to extend help for the family of a Saipan-based overseas Filipino worker.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



'Peace' Lyrics

Christie's auction house has sold John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to "Give Peace a Chance" for \$833,654.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

MVA reports 3-percent jump in June arrivals. PAGE 2
Shell matches Mobil gas price increase. PAGE 3

FOR FAILING TO FIX POWER ENGINES ON TIME

CUC terminates DCM contract



STEFAN SEBASTIAN

Taotao Tano protesters call for Gov. Benigno Fitial's resignation if he cannot solve CUC's ongoing problems with a sign outside the agency's offices Friday.

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has terminated its \$5.1-million contract with a company hired to fix the engines at Saipan's main power plant.

CUC executive director Antonio S. Muña notified the Guam-based DCM Group Inc. of the termination in a letter on Thursday, July 10, 2008. The termination came about a month after the utility issued a notice of default to DCM for falling behind schedule.



See CUC on Page 4

Dr. Hocog found not guilty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal jury has found Dr. Larry Borja Hocog not guilty of illegally dispensing regulated painkillers—a decision that reduced the doctor and

some of his family members to tears.

Hocog was visibly shaking and had tears in his eyes when the courtroom deputy read the 12 jurors' verdict declaring him not guilty of one count of

See HOCOG on Page 4

We entered in good faith into this contract with DCM. They told us they could fix our problem, but for some reason, they failed to deliver. CUC is basically moving on.

—Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

Protest lands on CUC's doorstep

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Protesters brought complaints over the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s high rate prices, mismanagement and question-

able contracting practices to the agency's doorstep Friday with a protest outside its headquarters in Dan Dan.

CUC's high utility rates have forced scores of local businesses to cut costs or cut back

on services to cope with the added financial burden. Meanwhile, recent contracts inked by CUC have come under scrutiny by local watchdogs and lawmakers concerned that the agency is making serious mistakes. Moreover, frequent

See PROTEST on Page 4

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY ADDRESS

Demapan vows to guard judicial independence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan yesterday diverted from the traditional State of the Judiciary Address, talking about the economic depression, politics, and

even chiding the Legislature for proposing bills that, according to him, would curtail judicial independence.

Assuring people that the CNMI's judicial system is strong, Demapan vowed to protect "at all cost" the sanctity of judicial

See DEMAPAN on Page 4

Local

MVA reports 3-percent jump in June arrivals

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Marianas Visitors Authority on Friday revealed monthly statistics showing a slight jump in June tourist arrivals compared to last year, an increase linked to the revival of airline services to the Commonwealth and an aggressive marketing campaign overseas. This is the third straight month that MVA reported increases in arrival numbers.

The Commonwealth saw 30,936 tourists in June, a 3-percent bump over the 29,989 seen in the same month last year, the MVA's tally says. Much of this growth occurred in key Asian markets like Japan, Korea and

Russia. Guam arrivals also rose by 3 percent.

"While our primary markets, Japan and Korea continue to show growth, we recognize the importance of our secondary markets," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio in a statement. "We are strongly capitalizing on new source markets such as Russia."

The resumption of flights from Osaka and charter services to Rota, MVA said in the statement, was responsible for a significant boost in Japanese tourism, which also saw a 3-percent increase. Japanese visitors in June totaled 15,904, while last June that number stood at 15,446.

Moreover, the MVA notes its offices have procured \$12 million worth of free advertising

in Japan to bolster the Commonwealth's image. "Without partnerships between MVA and the private sector, this would not have been possible to achieve," MVA said.

Added flights from Seoul and Busan have contributed to growth in the Korean tourism market as Asiana Airlines is poised to increase service to the Commonwealth even further in the coming months.

A total of 9,616 visitors Korean visitors arrived in June, compared to 9,139 in June 2007—a 5 percent increase. Korean tourism to date is up 31 percent over last year, MVA said.

MVA said Korean arrivals are expected to stabilize since it has been one year since the launch of the daytime flight from Seoul

on May 27, 2007.

Meanwhile, Russian tourism saw a 158-percent increase in June over last year, making it the

top market performer, yet the total number of Russian visitors remains low at 834 for the month.

Other notable market increase for the month of June includes Guam, which is up 3 percent, and others. In June,

the CNMI hosted two sporting events including the Oceania Championship and Grand Prix and the 2008 Asia-Pacific Tournament, which included participants from different countries.

'Now is the time for NMI aquaculture'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Now is the time for entrepreneurs to jumpstart an aquaculture industry in the Commonwealth before the opportunity slips away, local shrimp farming pioneer Anthony Pellegrino said in a speech Friday before a landmark aquaculture workshop.

Non-profit groups and Northern Marianas College launched the workshop earlier this week in a bid to encourage the development of new aquaculture businesses that could help bolster the suffering economy. The workshop comes as NMC is preparing several aquaculture projects and Gov. Benigno Fitial is poised to sign legislation establishing bio-security safeguards needed to foster shrimp farms on Rota, where a new farm will soon begin operation.

Nationwide, the aquaculture industry is expected to see rapid growth in the coming years. Projections by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration suggest that domestic aqua-

culture production of all species could jump to 1.5 million tons of products annually by 2025, including 760,000 tons of fish, 47,000 tons of crustaceans and 245,000 tons from mollusks.

To take advantage of this growth potential, Pellegrino — founder of Saipan Syqua Inc., the only local shrimp farming operation, which could soon see its first profits—said any local aquaculture ventures should start now before competition and market forces drive the opportunity elsewhere.

"Aquaculture is a fantastic industry and its future is ahead of us," Pellegrino said. "We had better grab it now before somebody takes it away. Now is the time to jump in, not later."

Moreover, Pellegrino noted that a host of loans and assistance is available for entrepre-



neurs to start raising shrimp, fish or other ocean crops. Like other businesses, planning is key to gaining the support needed for an aquaculture endeavor.

"If you have a good business plan and people who believe in you, you'll find the money," he said.

And the market for seafood, even species thought commonplace here, is booming, he added. For example, Pellegrino noted that Tilapia, a scavenger fish found in the Commonwealth, sells for \$7 a pound in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, any new shrimp farmers in the Commonwealth can look forward to a lot of work, according to Saipan Syqua's general manager, Rommel Katalma. In a presentation, Katalma explained that shrimp farming is a round-the-clock business involving hours of water quality inspections, feeding, monitoring and attention.

"Shrimp growing is 24-hour work," he said, noting that the company always has staff manning its shrimp tanks.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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AMENDED INVITATION FOR BID NO. 01

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

NMHC IFB08-013

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Thursday, June 26, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

AMENDED PRE-BID CONFERENCE DATE: A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on Monday, July 14, 2008, at 10:30 a.m., at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 15, 2008.

AMENDED OPENING DATE: Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB08-013**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time **Friday, July 25, 2008**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Friday, July 25, 2008**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to HYPERLINK "mailto:procurement@pticom.com" \o "blocked:mailto:procurement@pticom.com" procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 25, 2008**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **August 5, 2008**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **August 6, 2008**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **July 25, 2008**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$4.05 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Acting Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer."



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Golden is PREL CNMI Teacher of the Year

Andrew Golden, a science teacher at the Saipan Southern High School has been named Teacher of the Year for the Northern Mariana Islands by the Hawaii-based Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

Golden, who has been teaching for five years and currently handles physics and chemistry classes in grades 10-12 at Saipan Southern, joins nine other Teacher of the Year honorees who will be recognized at the Pacific Educational Conference in American Samoa July 14-17, 2008.

Cohosted this year by the American Samoa Department of Education, American Samoa Community College, and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, the PEC is one of the largest gatherings of educators in the Pacific region.

PEC will also be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and one of the highlights is the honoring of the Teachers of the Year.

The Teachers of the Year recognition program, sponsored by Pacific corporate partners Continental Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt International Publishers, and PREL, is a conference tradition that began in 1996.

This program provides an opportunity for outstanding teachers from American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, and Palau to attend the three-day conference.

The TOYs are honored at a reception with their chief state school officers, traditional chiefs, government officials, and other dignitaries. They are introduced by their respective CSCO and receive gifts of educational materials.

The opening general session of the PEC is their moment, as the outstanding teachers are recognized by all conference attendees. At the PEC, the TOYs not only pursue their own professional development, but also share their successful teaching strategies with other conference attendees. In their workshops at the PEC, the TOYs share "what works" in their classrooms, from lesson plans to instructional strategies in the Teacher of the Year presentations.

Besides Golden, the other 2008 Teachers of the Year are:

■ Ron Canos, Simon A. Sanchez High School, Guam. Canos has been a teacher for 10 years and currently teaches art in grades 9-12.

■ Raisa Chiwi, Weno High School, Chuuk, the Federated States of Micronesia. Chiwi has been a teacher for three years and currently teaches English reading and English writing in grades 9, 10, and 12.

■ Pelsihner Elias, Madolenihmw High School, Pohnpei, the

Federated States of Micronesia. Elias has been a teacher for a year and currently teaches algebra I in grade 10.

■ Patricia Fuiava, Manu'a High School, American Samoa. Fuiava has been a teacher for 13 years and currently teaches English in grades 9-12.

■ RosaLynne Florendo, Koror Elementary School, Republic of Palau. Florendo has been a teacher for nine years and currently teaches math, English, Palauan studies, social studies, science, and health in grades 3-5.

■ Damian Jetnil, Assumption Elementary School, the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Jetnil has been a teacher for nine years and currently teaches all subjects in grades 1 and 4.

■ Pascale Creek Pinner, Hilo Intermediate School, Hawaii. Pinner has been a teacher for 21 years and currently teaches earth & space science as well as gifted & talented science in grade 8.

■ Dominic Tachielig, Ifalik Community School, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia. Tachielig has been a teacher for 18 years and currently teaches all subjects in grades 5-9.

■ Annang Welly, Sansrik Elementary School, Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. Welly has been a teacher for eight years and currently teaches math and social studies in grades 7-9.

Along with the Pacific partners of the TOY program, the PEC attendees and their individual communities, PREL would like to congratulate these exemplary teachers and wish them continued great success in their work on behalf of Pacific children. (PREL)

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Attorney for Plaintiff
LAURO T. MANACOP

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LAURO T. MANACOP) Civil Case No.
Plaintiff,) 07-0440
v.)
MANAUR RAHMAN and)
MOHAMMAD KHAN, Defendant.) SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

FOR THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
MOHAMMAD KHAN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complainant, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within THIRTY (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor, San Jose Court Building, Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DATED THIS 20th day of May, 2008.

Shell matches Mobil gas price hike

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

High oil prices appear to have forced Shell gas stations in the Commonwealth to match the price hike Mobil stations made earlier this week.

The increase marks the second time in recent weeks Shell stations have matched a price hike by Mobil within the span of two or three days. Mobil increased its gas prices on Saipan July 7.

Prices at Shell stations rose Thursday, increasing 25 cents for regular, self-serve gas to \$5.05 per gallon. Shell's full service price for regular gas now stands at \$5.18 per gallon. Premium gas prices saw a

corresponding rise to \$5.21 per gallon for self-service and \$5.31 for full service. Diesel gas prices jumped 31 cents to \$5.98 per gallon.

Experts attribute recent gasoline price increases to market fears over a possible military confrontation over Iran's controversial nuclear program, sparking a price rally that brought per barrel oil costs to a record high of \$145.85 on July 3.

Oil prices at press time stood at \$141.65 per barrel, a \$5.67 spike over prices at the close of the market Thursday.

Gas prices in the Commonwealth are far above the national average, according to data from AAA. Nationally,

the average price on regular, unleaded gas per gallon was \$4.10 at press time, six cents higher than the average price last month and more than a dollar higher than the average per gallon price in June of 2007, \$3.06. The highest regular gas price on the U.S. mainland, AAA says, is now in Alaska, at \$4.61 per gallon.

Shell officials did not respond to a request for comment on this story.

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GUALO RAI • MITA TRAVEL, GARAPAN

DEMAPAN

From Page 1

The Address was held before a jam-packed joint session of the 16th Legislature in the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill.

Demapan urged government leaders not to give up in the face of the dire economic situation the CNMI is faced with.

"The reality is that we are in a deep economic depression, the likes of which are unparalleled since we obtained self-government." However, "together we can combine our energies to find a solution to these daunting problems. Finding the vigor to revive this economy should be the priority of all our leaders," he said.

He noted that in the more than 30 years of the Commonwealth's existence, the CNMI has shown the world it could stand among equals and assume responsibility for self-government.

The chief justice explained that the economy and politics of world market forces "are on the daily agenda of our families at the dinner tables or at friends' gatherings. These issues are also discussed in the courts, as families or couples have disputes over their ability to pay CUC, or to find other ways to make up for delinquent child support or small claim payments."

Demapan encouraged government leaders to debate the issues publicly in order to come up with an economic stimulus plan to revive NMI's sagging economy.

As for the judiciary's budget, Demapan said he could only agree to a maximum 10 percent cut in the \$5.3 million the Judiciary is asking for the coming fiscal year.

"I will ask that no more than 10 percent of the Judiciary's budget be reduced. This will mean fewer people and less resources for the upcoming year," he said.

Demapan assured that there will be no pay increases in the judicial branch.



Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan poses with lawmakers and other special guests after his State of the Judiciary Address at the House's chamber on Capital Hill yesterday. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

He said the budget he is requesting will be used to provide the necessary services for ongoing projects and maintenance costs.

Throughout Demapan's term as chief justice, the Judiciary Branch has never requested a supplemental appropriation because of over-expenditures or budget deficits.

"We have lived on only 2 percent of the total budget for the Commonwealth. This is a big challenge and we will continue to stand in unity with you in finding ways to save this government money," he said.

Demapan cautioned the Legislature that the Judiciary is reaching the ceiling of cuts.

Any further cuts, he said, will truly affect the core mission—"to provide justice to all people before us."

On the state of the Judiciary, the chief justice said it is his pleasure to

report that that CNMI Judicial System is strong and working hard to not only meet the challenges before it, but to seek out challenges to better improve the judicial system.

On the judicial independence topic, Demapan said he is forced to discuss the issue after seeing several proposed legislations, including initiatives, "aimed at curtailing judicial independence."

Last April, the Senate approved a bill cutting the salaries of justices and judges by 10 percent across the board. Sen. Maria Pangelinan sponsored the legislation.

Demapan cited Article IV Section 6 of the NMI Constitution, which provides that the salary of a judge or justice shall not be decreased during a term of office.

"These provisions, my dear friends, were not intended to ensure that the Ju-

diciary be the first to dip into the pot at each payroll. They were also not intended to ensure security for judges and justices on the bench during a financial crisis," Demapan said.

He pointed out that by mandating a lengthy term of office and compensation that cannot be reduced, the founders of the NMI government sought to advance the importance of judicial independence from the Legislature and the Executive Branch.

"This is a safeguard on the ability of a judge or justice to decide cases impartially without fear of retaliation. This is one of the many works of genius in our Constitution," the chief justice said.

Demapan expressed concern about the recent rash of proposed legislation initiatives aimed at the Judiciary.

"While initiatives are one good way to enact laws, we must always study

carefully any proposed initiative to ensure we are firmly in full agreement in having it placed in our Constitution," he said.

The chief justice urged for a dialogue with the lawmakers before any such proposals are presented to the people for action.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez along with some Cabinet members attended the ceremony.

All judges and justices were present except associate justice John Manglona and judge Ramona Manglona, who are off island.

Retired Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy, retired California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso, retired judge Timothy Bellas, and former associate justice and former Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja were among the special guests.

HOCOG

From Page 1

distribution of oxycodone hydrochloride and one count of distribution of meperidine.

Some of his family members, relatives and friends who watched the proceeding were also in tears. They later

hugged the doctor after the hearing.

Hocog's lead counsel, Michael Dotts, was not present due to sickness. Dotts' co-counsel, Ramon Quichocho, represented the defendant in the courtroom.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Quichocho said they are very thankful to God and the jury for the rendering a just verdict. Quichocho also thanked the court's staff and even assistant U.S.

attorney Eric O'Malley for "their professionalism throughout the trial."

"From the beginning I knew that Dr. Hocog did not commit any crime. I'm just so happy that the jury rendered a just verdict," the lawyer said.

When asked for comments, O'Malley said obviously he's disappointed, but that he respects the jury's decision. "I think the evidence we showed justify a

different outcome," he said.

The indictment alleged that beginning Sept. 4, 2007, until Nov. 30, 2007, Dr. Hocog dispensed oxycodone hydrochloride and meperidine (commonly known as demerol)—both controlled substances.

At that time, the doctor's Drug Enforcement Administration controlled substance registration certificate and

his license to practice medicine in the CNMI were under certain restrictions due to a separate pending case before the local medical board.

Hocog has maintained his innocence.

The jurors started deliberating on Thursday. They resumed deliberations yesterday morning and came out with the decision in the afternoon.

PROTEST

From Page 1

power outages and brownouts continue to plague customers.

Public outcry over these issues united members of Taotao Tano, a prominent indigenous community group, with the Coalition of United Workers, a local la-

bor organization, for the protest.

Taotao Tano activists on the road near CUC's headquarters urged Gov. Benigno Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez with a noticeable placard to step down if they cannot resolve CUC's troubles.

"These people need to understand that this is a public utility, that we are the public and that we are suffering,"

said Gregorio Cruz, president of Taotao Tano. "We are suffering from their mismanagement, their corruption and their misspending."

Irene Tantiado, president of the coalition, said CUC's high rates and mismanagement have also put a major strain on foreign workers already struggling financially.

"We hope they will give us a chance

to air our sentiments about their rates, the mistakes, the billings," she said. "People are tired of these problems. The cost of power, in addition to gas and the outages; those things add up to more pressure and tension for guest workers."

Furthermore, CUC's rates continue to impose a major burden on small businesses, according to protester Enrico

Santos, a local sign-maker. His CUC bills, he said, have seen a severe spike recently that has put a strain on his work.

"I really know that they won't listen to this kind of outcry but somebody must stand up," Santos said. "Even though they won't listen, they will hear us."

CUC officials could not be reached for comments as of press time.

CUC

From Page 1

"The continuing failure of DCM to meet its contractual obligations and the resulting delays in providing electricity to the citizens of the Commonwealth is unacceptable," Muña said. "DCM has not cured its default of [the contract]. That contract is terminated."

CUC hired the DCM Group to repair seven of the eight generators

at the main power plant in Lower Base. Under the \$5.1 million contract, DCM Group was to complete the rehabilitation by June 2007. To date, however, five of the engines are still down.

DCM says it is having problems getting the necessary parts to perform the repair. It has asked for more time, but Muña denied the contractor's request.

"The options provided by DCM to cure its default provide nothing more than a significant departure from

DCM's contractual obligations without curing the existing default," Muña said.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the administration supports CUC's decision on the contract, which Muña has called "a mistake."

"We entered in good faith into this contract with DCM. They told us they could fix our problem, but for some reason, they failed to deliver. CUC is basically moving on," Reyes said.

For House Speaker Arnold I. Palacio

rios, however, CUC should not have entered into the contract in the first place. He also said CUC must ensure it does not repeat the mistake it made with DCM.

"The question now is, what next? Are they [CUC] going to put out another bid? We're running out of time. We cannot afford another blunder. We need somebody competent to do the repair. Here we are in this power crisis, and CUC keeps making mistakes to the tune of millions of dollars. It's a disas-

trous situation," said Palacios.

He added that CUC should pursue whatever funds may be recovered from DCM.

It is unclear how much of the \$5.1 million has been paid to DCM. The *Saipan Tribune* made several telephone calls to Muña, but he was not available.

In his letter to DCM vice president Sonny P. Perez, Muña asked for a meeting with the contractors to discuss closeout costs and any billing issues.

Young families top honeymooners in Korea market

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Honeymooners, once the life-blood of the Korean tourism market in the Commonwealth, are now taking a backseat to young families

traveling together as the primary demographic traveling here, a trend observers attribute to a larger shift in Korea's work week.

In the early 1990s until 2000, recently married couples accounted for the bulk of the

Commonwealth's Korean visitors, according to Irene Lee, a representative of the Marianas Visitors Authority at its offices in Seoul. However, recent trends suggest that the recently implemented five-day work week in

Korea is giving young families there enough time to take short trips overseas and the Commonwealth, given its proximity to Korea, has become a popular destination for these short-term jaunts.

"With the five-day work week now in Korea, the long weekends are contributing to Koreans being able to travel to short-haul destinations," Lee said in an interview earlier this week, noting that Koreans previously worked on Saturdays in addition to keeping Monday through Friday hours. "Up until early 2000, the major market for the CNMI from Korea was the honeymooners but the trend is moving toward the young families."

The longer weekends have meant an upswing in foreign travel overall for Korea throughout the year, she added.

"Before, it used to be only summer vacation season that Koreans

traveled abroad," said Lee. "Now we're seeing that it's not only that season but over the year."

The trend comes as MVA officials are noting a recent 35 percent jump in Korean tourism, a rise likely to continue with Asiana Airlines poised to increase airline services to the Commonwealth.

MVA board chair Jerry Tan in an interview this week said much of the recent growth in the Korean tourism market is due to Asiana, which has invested heavily in a hotel construction project at Lau-Lau Bay.

Asiana, he noted, has already introduced eight new flights to Saipan within the last year. "It's very exciting that we're getting this boost," he said.

Substantial caseload awaiting the new judge

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A huge caseload is waiting for the governor's choice for the vacant seat at the Superior Court.

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja said yesterday that approximately 5,000 cases are filed with the Superior Court every year. Divided among the five judges, this translates to an average of 1,000 cases for each judge in one year.

When former Judge Juan T. Lizama retired in May 2008, his caseload was spread out among the four judges left behind.

"A lot of work awaits whoever

the governor appoints and the Senate confirms to replace Judge Lizama," Naraja said in an interview after Chief Justice Miguel Demapan's State of the Judiciary address at the Legislature.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has nominated attorney Perry Inos to the bench. The Senate has yet to confirm the appointment.

Both Demapan and Naraja declined to comment on the governor's pick. They cited ethical reasons.

"I don't want to make any comments that might affect the Senate's decision. I would just let them do their work," said

Saipan readies for Pacific auditors' conference

Some 300 public auditors and private accountants are expected to attend the 19th annual conference of the Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors to be held on Saipan next week.

Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan, chairman of the regional organization, said 200 participants are coming from all over the Pacific. The 100 others are working in the CNMI government and local accounting firms that perform government audits.

"We're expecting this to be one of the association's largest conferences," said Sablan.

The APIPA conference will be held on July 14-18, 2008 at the Saipan World Resort. It is the third time the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor will host the event.

The conference will offer courses in audit, audit supervi-

tion, basic finance, and finance.

The Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors was formed in January 1988 through a memorandum of understanding among the audit organizations of five Pacific Island nations. The founding parties to the 1988 MOU were the public auditors of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and the CNMI; the territorial auditor of American Samoa, and the auditor general of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The Department of the Interior Office of the Inspector General-Guam also became a nonvoting member in 1988.

Since its inception, APIPA has expanded to include public auditors from Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae, Guam, Samoa and the Virgin Islands. (Agnes E. Donato)



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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

No G(r)8 accomplishment

The Group of Eight declaration of its commitment to a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2050 could be viewed as a ho-hum event when you consider that German Chancellor Angela Merkel sought the same commitment at last year's summit and that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has called for a cut of up to 80 percent in the same period. What made the announcement Tuesday at once monumental and pathetic was that it was agreed to by President Bush. With just over six months left in office, and after seven years of denial, inaction and foot-dragging, Mr. Bush finally did what the world has been pleading with him to do.

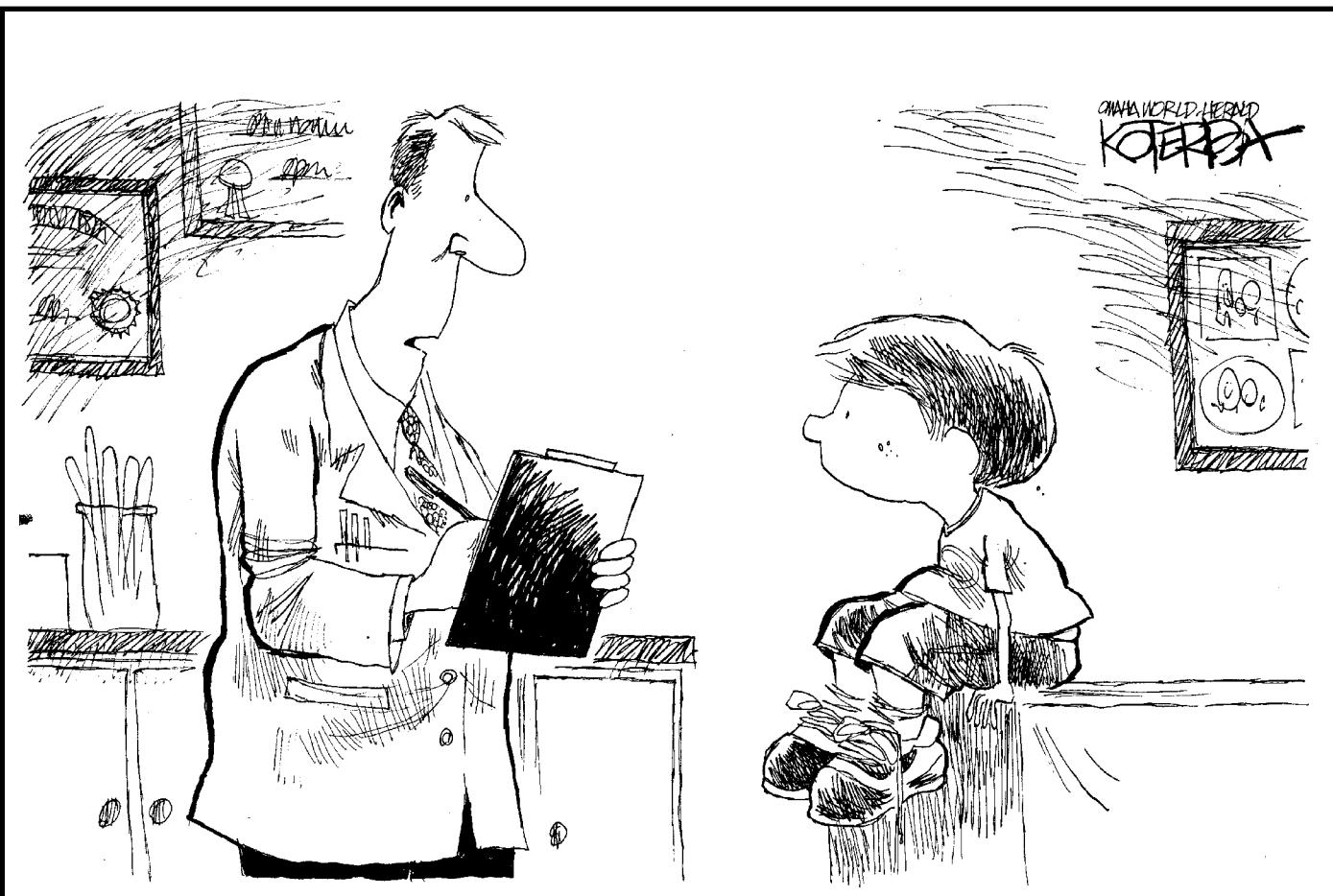
The G-8 document is big on vision. Technology is the centerpiece of many of the initiatives to help developed and developing countries adapt their economies. In addition to the emissions reduction goal, there are calls for mandatory "mid-term goals and national plans to achieve them" and recognition of "the importance of setting mid-term, aspirational goals for energy efficiency." But the G-8 declaration contains no specifics. For instance, is that a 50 percent reduction in emissions from 1990 levels or 2005 levels? The answer matters.

The price of Mr. Bush's obstinacy has been high. The cost to meet the frightening demands of climate change is greater now than it would have been when Mr. Bush took office in 2001. And the United States has earned the enmity of other countries for not giving credence to the avalanche of evidence that global climate change is a real menace. Other nations awaited the leadership that only Washington could provide — especially since the United States was until recently the world's largest emitter of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. And they waited in vain.

Certainly, over the last year or so, Mr. Bush has taken positive steps on climate change. The series of Major Economies meetings involving the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters could be viewed as a distraction from the negotiations for a successor to the Kyoto Protocol under the auspices of the United Nations. But those meetings brought India and China, the latter now believed to be the top emitting nation, into the process. The Major Economies issued their own declaration at the G-8 summit, pledging to support U.N. efforts to conclude a new climate agreement. The fight against global warming will be lost without them.

Mr. Bush's late action has, at least, committed his successor to a major emissions reduction goal. Thankfully, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., have promised to do even more. It will fall to one of them to design and implement the policies that can bring about that change — just as Mr. Bush's legacy will be marked by his failure to do so.

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Why were we in Vietnam?

Doing business in China is beginning to cost real money. Not that Chinese workers are buying second homes or anything like that: Their average wage is still a little short of a dollar an hour. But so many Chinese have now left their villages for the factories that the once bottomless pool of new young workers is beginning to run dry, and the wages of assembly-line employees are rising 10 percent a year.

Worse yet, new labor laws are making it harder for employers to cheat their workers out of their wages and benefits. Many American businesses that do their manufacturing in China had warned against those laws; the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai had flatly opposed them. But the good old days of Maoist labor discipline, when the government could send tens of millions of skilled workers down to the farms to be toughened up and periodically tortured, are gone. Mao's heirs, though not above a touch of torture here and there just to keep the system humming along, are concerned, as he was not, with achieving social harmony, even if that means compelling employers to sign, and honor, contracts with their employees.

Confronted with such appalling squishiness, what's a good, cost-cutting American business to do? Many are fleeing south of the border—not our border (Mexico costs way too much) but China's. They're bound for Vietnam.

According to a report by Keith Bradsher in The New York Times last month, such multinational companies as Canon (the printer and copier maker) and Hanesbrands (the North Carolina-based underwear empire) are expanding or building factories in Hanoi, where they churn out products for Wal-Mart and other American retailers. Foreign direct investment in Vietnam increased 136 percent between 2006 and 2007, while it increased just 14 percent in China.

The reason for the move south is straightforward: Vietnamese factory workers make about a quarter of what their Chinese counterparts earn.

But why Vietnam and not, say, Thailand, where labor is similarly cheap?

Vietnam's edge, it seems, is political. "Communism means more stability," Laurence Shu, the chief financial officer of Shanghai-based Texhong, one of the world's leading manufacturers of cotton fabrics, told Bradsher. This view, Bradsher reports, is common among Asian executives and some American executives, too, though they have the presence of mind never to say so on the record. After all, Vietnam, like China, outlaws independent unions. Absent free speech and free elections, no radical shifts in the government's economic policies are likely to be sprung upon unsuspecting American businesses.

Now, far be it from me to begrudge the Vietnamese their moment in the sun before global capital finds them too costly and moves

By HAROLD MEYERSON

Special to The Washington Post

Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect and the L.A. Weekly.



on to Bangladesh and Somalia. But didn't we fight a war to keep Vietnam from going communist? Something like 58,000 American deaths, right? And now American business actually prefers investing in communist Vietnam over, say, the more or less democratic Philippines? In all likelihood, it would prefer investing in communist Vietnam to investing in a more chaotic, less disciplined democratic Vietnam, if such existed.

Let's imagine, just as an exercise, that we're trying to explain this to those 58,000 Americans and their loved ones. We could argue that by investing in communist countries, we're pushing them toward democracy. But everything we know about China suggests that, in reality, such investments merely make authoritarian regimes stronger. We could argue that what we're really doing is bringing communist nations into the world capitalist system. Then again, the effect of bringing into the global labor pool hundreds of millions of low-wage workers—people whose wages are held in check by both capital mobility and communist repression—is to hold down wages in democratic nations with advanced economies and with no national strategy to preserve and expand good jobs at home (i.e., in the United States).

Or we could argue that our onetime opposition to communism was noble and all that but that, unburdened by the illusions of the past, American business, backed by the American government, has realized that the problem with communism wasn't that it was undemocratic but that it was anti-capitalist. And that once communism was integrated into a world capitalist system, its antipathy toward democracy not only wouldn't be a bad thing but would actually be good. That is clearly the political logic that underpins our involvement with China. It's a little dicier to say this about our growing involvement with Vietnam, since all those Americans whose names are on that wall on the Mall probably didn't realize how compatible with global American enterprise Vietnamese communism would turn out to be or how the cause of democracy would turn out to have been of no real importance at all.

I guess a note from the American establishment to those men and women with their names on the Wall would be in order. Something like: Say, guys—sorry 'bout that!

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Myths about the bust that will follow the boom(ers)

By RUSSELL BELAND
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The warnings have rumbled for decades: Just wait till the baby boomers retire. If you think there are strains on Social Security and Medicare now, brace yourselves for the implosion as the boomers start heading out to pasture. With the first of that generation now doing just that, we should be seeing the dust cloud soon, right?

Actually, if you've bought into the following myths about the bust the baby boom is supposed to usher in, you may be surprised.

1 As boomers quit working and ease into their golden years, they could break the backs of the younger workers who will have to support them.

Not so. Even at the peak of boomer retirement, around 2030, most of the population will still be of prime working age, between 20 and 64. The percentage—about 55, according to the Social Security Administration—will be lower than it is today (59), but above the levels of the 1960s and '70s, when it ranged between 51 and 54 percent. Not only will a larger portion of the population be of working age than in the past, but a much higher percentage of that group will be available to provide goods and services. Forty years ago, most women didn't work outside the home; these days, about 60 percent do—and the number keeps going up. In addition, national defense employed more than 10 percent of the workforce in 1968. Today, it uses less than 5 percent, freeing more workers for the general labor force. Future labor markets are likely to be tighter than they are today, but there's no danger of running out of workers.

2 We're running out of time to fix senior-citizen entitlement programs before a crisis strikes.

Actually, we're out of time. If it was politically impossible to solve this problem when the number of retirees was comparatively small, there's no chance for a major fix as the ranks of the elderly—and their political clout—grow. There may be some minor changes in the way benefits are taxed or adjusted for inflation, but it's already too late for any big fix. Some older baby boomers are already retired, and many more are getting close. Social Security and Medicare benefits are part of their financial planning, and we can't reduce them significantly now without a major breach of faith. If you think cuts in benefits are inevitable, remember that the only significant recent change to old-age entitlement programs was adding a prescription-drug benefit—which rang in a

Worse than mud

Since time immemorial there has been political mud-slinging, including heaps during the period of the American founding, as Edward J. Larson noted in *The Post* ("The Founding Mudslingers"). But the eternal and universal nature of mud-slinging provides no basis for judging when the balance between it and forthright political discourse falls within a range healthy for democracy. As the Internet age matures, we should ask: Are we getting the balance right?

The philosopher Machiavelli, in a chapter of "Discourses on Livy" called "As much as accusations are useful to a Republic, so much so are calumnies pernicious," makes a useful distinction between accusation and calumny, or slander. Accusers present themselves and their evidence publicly so their accusations can be debated by the accused. That debate provides a reasonable basis for public deliberation. But calumny is anonymous, secret. Spread far and wide, it provides no real opportunity for debate or testing of evidence.

Moreover, accusations, even those caked in mud, can be true. Calumny is false by definition. The problem we face is not mudslinging but calumny, an antique word resurrected by the Internet era.

Machiavelli had seen clear examples of the problem. He wrote:

"Whoever reads the history of (Florence), will see how many calumnies have been perpetrated in every time against those citizens who occupied themselves in its important affairs. Of one, they said he had robbed money from the Community; of another, that he had not succeeded in an enterprise because of having been corrupted; and of yet another, because of his ambitions had caused such and such inconvenience. Of the things that resulted there sprung up hate on every side, whence it came to divisions, from divisions to factions (Sects), (and) from factions to ruin."

How important is calumny today? In 2000, calumny effectively led to John McCain's defeat in South Carolina. That smear cam-

dramatic increase in government costs.

3 Boomers' retirement will be bad for the economy.

Not really. It'll be bad for the federal budget, sure, but it will actually be good for the economy as a whole. As retirees, the boomers will continue to buy goods and services, but they won't be competing for jobs. This will tend to push wages up, keep unemployment low and boost demand across the board. That's good news for an economy generally characterized by excess capacity in retailing and manufacturing and persistent unemployment. The biggest impact will probably be felt in the personal services sector, on which retirees spend a disproportionate amount. Many service jobs require little formal training, and most can't be moved offshore. The demand for drivers, cooks, gardeners and others will increase as the baby boomers age.

Yes, the baby boom's retirement will strain the budget. But natural economic forces will take over, and combined with modest revisions in benefits and taxes, they should make it possible to keep those baby boomers grazing and the rest of us going in relative comfort and peace of mind.

4 The politicians know what needs to be done; they just lack the will to do it.

They may lack the will, but they almost certainly have no idea what needs to be done. Estimates of future Social Security and Medicare spending are based on complex economic and demographic models that are quite sensitive to even modest changes in key assumptions. No one really knows the size of the problem facing the federal budget, and very few people understand all the moving parts. Take President Bush's failed proposal to allow private retirement accounts, which would permit younger workers to redirect some of their Social Security money into alternative investments. In the long run, this would partially insulate the government from swings in revenues and expenditures of the sort caused by the baby boom, but in the near term, it would make the government's cash-flow problems somewhat worse. Yet the debate over the proposal centered more on potential, largely imaginary financial risks to individuals than on the pros and cons of

paign against him used robo-calls and fliers, and e-mail also played an important role, as *The New York Times* reported in February 2000. Arguably, calumny defeated John Kerry in 2004, and the infamous Swift boat television ads of that summer were, importantly, preceded by an aggressive Internet campaign begun that January that included perhaps the first viral campaign e-mail: a computer-generated image of Kerry and Jane Fonda beside each other on a podium at an anti-war rally. The image originally emerged at the Web site FreeRepublic.com, and Fonda had not in fact been at the event. But the damage was done. Today we are seeing viral anti-Obama e-mails, some of which I have traced to some of the same origin points for the 2000 and 2004 smear campaigns.

Since 2000, then, Internet- and e-mail-based slanders have had significant effects on national elections and have clearly shifted the balance between reasonable and calumnious discourse in a negative direction. In this regard, the Internet has given calumny a new level of consequence for our politics.

Machiavelli offered an account of calumny's threat to free republics: "Calumnies sting without disabling; and those who are stung being more moved by hatred of their detractors than by fear of the things they say against them, seek revenge." We can see these very sentiments in John McCain's response to the apparent involvement of a man named Ted Sampley, who operated a Web site devoted to attacking John Kerry in 2004. (Sampley's central Web site, U.S. Veteran Dispatch, appears to feed some of the e-mail against Obama, and he apparently also was involved in the South Carolina campaign against McCain in 2000, though he certainly has not been alone in these efforts.) As *The New York Times* reported in 2004, McCain described Sampley as "one of the most despicable people I have ever had the misfortune to encounter." Machiavelli argued that calumny breeds dangerous levels of factionalism specifically by motivating hatred.

improving long-term viability at the expense of tighter budgets over the next couple of decades.

Even issues seemingly unrelated to baby-boom retirement could have significant indirect effects. If, for example, avian flu were to kill thousands of elderly Americans, as has been predicted, it would save Social Security and Medicare billions of dollars. That's not much of a silver lining, but it does highlight the complexity of the calculations.

On the other hand, imagine that some form of universal medical coverage somehow made it possible to provide quality, affordable care to virtually every American without spending any more on health care than the nation does now. Polls have shown that with nearly all workers becoming eligible for at least partial Social Security at age 62, significant numbers of workers would retire up to three years sooner if they didn't feel the need to wait for Medicare eligibility, which begins at 65. That's three fewer years of contributions to Social Security and three more years drawing out benefits. The added cost to the system would be billions of dollars. Universal health coverage might be worth the price, but no one includes that hidden cost in their calculations.

5 Saving the budget will require either major reductions in the old-age entitlement programs or major tax increases—or both.

Actually, probably none of the above. Unless there are major changes in benefit rules or in the population, spending on Social Security and Medicare will grow dramatically over the next few decades. But many economic changes are likely to mitigate the effects on the budget. For example, as the workforce shrinks, the demand for labor will grow, pushing up wages and thus increasing payroll taxes, giving the government more income. Higher wages mean that more people are likely to choose to work, and to work longer before retiring. These changes, and many others like them, are likely to offset most of the increases in Social Security costs even without changes in tax rates. That will still leave a bill to be paid, but a manageable one. Medicare benefits are a much more complicated matter, but society is going to provide health care to the elderly one way or another. The issues there have more to do with how to provide that care and how expensive it will be than with who writes the checks.

So don't be too scared. Yes, the baby boom's retirement will strain the budget. But natural economic forces will take over, and combined with modest revisions in benefits and taxes, they should make it possible to keep those baby boomers grazing and the rest of us going in relative comfort and peace of mind.

Beland is deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower analysis and assessment.

By DANIELLE ALLEN

Special to The Washington Post

Danielle Allen is a professor of social science at the Institute for Advanced Study.



But there is another issue at play here. McCain described Sampley as "an enemy of the truth." The problem with calumny is not merely that it motivates hatred or that it is simply dishonest. Even more significant, effective dishonesty — calumny that succeeds in its goals — undermines cultural commitments to truth by encouraging cynicism. When lies work, why not lie? Yet when a culture ceases to honor the truth, it loses its ability to preserve law, justice and fairness.

A right to free speech is no excuse for lying. While strongly protected rights of free speech are critical to a healthy democracy, rights bring responsibilities. Citizens should, as a standard practice, take responsibility for their views — the matters of fact and principle that they wish to put before the public for consideration — by appending their full, legal names to their expressions, even in blog posts. While there are times and places for anonymity, it should be the exception. Unfortunately, the Internet has brought us to a point where anonymity is the rule, not the exception. Rather than facilitating free speech, this is corrosive to democratic discourse. It's time to rebuild a responsible culture in which people speak in their full, legal names and honor the truth.

Mud we can laugh about. Calumny we can't.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 76
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 88	▼ 77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 62	▼ 50
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 107	▼ 75
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲ 89	▼ 81
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84	▼ 75
London	Showers	▲ 66	▼ 52
Los Angeles	Thundershowers	▲ 84	▼ 66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 55	▼ 47
Miami	Showers	▲ 90	▼ 76
New York	Sunny	▲ 87	▼ 72
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲ 88	▼ 74
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 70	▼ 52
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲ 81	▼ 72
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88	▼ 65
Salem	Sunny	▲ 92	▼ 51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 75	▼ 58
Seoul	Rain	▲ 82	▼ 70
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 75
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 90	▼ 73

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:54AM	6:52 PM	Today	1:51PM	12:43AM
1:57AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet		Sunday	5:54AM	6:51 PM
9:42AM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet		Monday	5:54AM	6:51 PM
5:00PM Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet		Tuesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM
8:59PM Today	Low Tide: 1.2 Feet		Wednesday	5:55AM	6:51 PM

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Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10-30pm

Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am

Sunday School for Children: 10-11am

Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities

Adult Sunday School: 9am

Youth Sunday School: 9am

English Worship Service Sunday: 10am

Sunday Service: 5:30pm

Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm

Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm

Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;

Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm

Mid-week Service: 7:30pm

Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm

Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm

Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am

Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,

Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am

GBI Classes: 4-6pm

Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am

Sunday: 7am

Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm

Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)

Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)

Sunday: 6:45am (English)

Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koberville

Sunday Services

9:00 AM

Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158

Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal

8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 12, 1999

PSS weighs termination of Kagman school contractor

The Public School System has warned to terminate the contract of Pac United Corp. if it doesn't "shape up" and improve its work on Kagman school project, according to sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Sources said Friday that PSS is frustrated with the pace and performance of Pac United, which is undertaking the construction of Kagman Elementary School.

Teno backs delay in oversight hearing

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday backed moves by the business community to ask the U.S. Senate Energy and Resources Committee to postpone its scheduled July 27 oversight hearing on a proposed application of the Immigration and Nationality Act in the CNMI. The Commonwealth government, however, is still readying itself to testify later this month before the panel, which has jurisdiction over issues affecting U.S. insular areas and territories.

Proposal to tap immigration expert axed

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday thumbed down suggestion from legislators to hire an outside immigration law expert who will assist the Commonwealth in proposing reform measures in the U.S. Congress in lieu of federal takeover legislation. "I'd rather see that legislation be introduced here in the CNMI," he told reporters after meeting with members of the House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee where the proposal was broached.

July 12, 2000

\$36M needed to compensate landowners

The House Ways and Means Committee is again considering plans to compensate landowners whose properties have been acquired by the government for public use, such as for roadways and buildings, through outside borrowing, according to its chairman. Rep. Antonio M. Camacho projected funding need of at least \$36 million to meet long-due obligations to hundreds of families on the islands.

Seaport revenues soar 51%

Revenues generated from three sea transport facilities in the Northern Marianas increased Commonwealth Ports Authority earnings by \$166,406 in May, soaring 51 percent to \$490,661 from last year of the same month's \$324,255. In a report, CPA Comptroller Dave S. Demapan said the 51 percent growth in seaport operating revenues was spurred by the implementation of the new harbor fees since July 1999.

CNMI urged to monitor dev't in Asian economies

Government and business leaders should remain vigilant on the developments in major economies in the mainland Asia since these are likely to give the CNMI a peek of what is in store for the islands' economy, according to the Department of Commerce. Commerce officials said growth and stability of the United States economy has too little impact on that of the Commonwealth's, especially with majority of businesses on the islands still cater to foreign tourists who are mostly from Japan and South Korea.

July 12, 2001

'Stop double taxation'

Is the amount being deducted from the salary of employees by companies to cover for food and housing a form of company revenue? No, according to lawmakers at the House of Representatives, paving the way for the passage of a bill that clarified certain provisions of the Commonwealth tax laws.

Incentive program reaps first fruit

The recently-implemented Investment Incentive Act yesterday reaped what could be its first fruit, through a million-dollar business proposal from a Guam-based entertainment company. Baldyga Group International, the company behind the Sand Castle Entertainment Complex in Guam, said it will invest over \$1 million in the CNMI if it gets incentives under the Qualifying Tax Certificate Program.

Business

Oil steady in Asia after \$5 rebound

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—

Oil held steady Friday in Asia after rebounding more than \$5 in the previous session after another missile launch by Iran stoked worries that escalating political tensions in the Middle East could cut off supplies out of the region.

A day after Iran tested a missile capable of reaching Israel, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned the oil-producing nation that the United States will defend its allies. Iran then responded with another missile launch.

The mounting hostilities drew buyers back into the jittery energy markets, said John Kilduff, senior vice president of risk management at MF Global LLC.

"We fell awfully fast, awfully far ... and these Iranian tensions are putting a higher and higher floor under this

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Apple iPhone goes on sale in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The new iPhone model went on sale in the Asia-Pacific region Friday, making its debut in Japan amid swirling smoke after a 30-second countdown chanted by hundreds of people lined up, some for days, snaking around the block. The celebration was part of a global rollout in 22 nations of Apple Inc.'s much-hyped 3G, or third-generation, wireless connecting cell phone. The latest iPhone is an upgrade of the model that went on sale last year in the United States and several other nations. Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong were the other Asia-Pacific locations getting the new phone. In the United States, phones will be available at 8 a.m. in each time zone.

Toyota will start making hybrid Prius in US

DETROIT (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp., the seemingly unstoppable juggernaut that saw its U.S. sales double in the last decade, has come back down to earth. Stung by rare double-digit sales declines and burdened by a growing inventory of slow-selling pickups, Toyota said Thursday it will start producing the Prius hybrid in the U.S. and will shut down truck and SUV production to meet changing consumer demands. Toyota said the moves will not affect any full-time workers, who will get training and do other projects during the shutdown. But the company is laying off around 700 temporary workers at the affected plants.

Another June swoon for Atlantic City casinos

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—A nasty June swoon at the resort's 11 casinos could be evidence that Atlantic City is heading for a second straight down year in terms of revenue. The gambling halls took in \$373.6 million in June, an 11 percent decrease over the same month a year ago. Only one of the 11 casinos saw revenues increase last month, and of the losers, eight posted double-digit declines. Slot revenue was down 12.2 percent to \$266.2 million, and revenue from table games was down 8 percent to \$107.4 million. Experts say the size of the decline may be too steep to be offset by July and August crowds.

Fannie, Freddie sink on government rescue fears

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fears that the government will be forced to rescue Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could well become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Shares of the government-chartered mortgage finance giants plummeted Thursday and are trading at levels last seen in the early 1990s. If the prices don't recover, it will be harder for the two companies to raise more money through stock sales to compensate for losses from the housing bust. Investors are afraid their stakes will vanish if the government is forced to rescue the companies. "The government has to step in and do something," said Friedman, Billings, Ramsey & Co. analyst Paul Miller. Freddie Mac shares fell \$2.26 or 22 percent, to \$8, after sinking as low as \$6.75 earlier in the day. Shares of Fannie Mae fell \$2.11, or 13.8 percent, to \$13.20, after earlier falling to \$11.70.

Nation

Bush inks new rules on govt wiretapping

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bush signed a bill Thursday that overhauls rules about government eavesdropping and grants immunity to telecommunications companies that helped the U.S. spy on Americans in suspected terrorism cases.

He called it “landmark legislation that is vital to the security of our people.”

Bush signed the measure in a Rose Garden ceremony a day after the Senate sent it to him, following nearly a year of debate in the Democratic-led Congress over surveillance rules and the warrantless wiretapping program Bush initiated after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It was a battle that pitted privacy and civil liberties concerns against the desire to prevent terrorist attacks and Democrats’ fears of being portrayed as weak when it comes to protecting the country.

Its passage was a major victory for Bush, an unpopular lame-duck president who nevertheless has been able to prevail over Congress on most issues of national security and intelligence disputes.

Bush said the 9/11 attack “changed our country forever” and taught the intelligence com-



President Bush, surrounded by members of Congress and his cabinet, signs the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), Thursday, July 10, 2008, in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington.

munity that it must know who America’s enemies are talking to and what they are saying.

“In the aftermath of 9/11,” Bush said, “few would have imagined that we would be standing here seven years later without another attack on American soil. The fact that the terrorists have failed to strike our shores again does not mean that our enemies have given up.”

Even before Bush signed the legislation, the American Civil Liberties Union said it would challenge the new law in court.

The president said the bill gives the government anti-

terror tools it needs without compromising Americans’ civil liberties.

Bush was joined at the ceremony by Vice President Dick Cheney, Attorney General Michael Mukasey, Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell and more than a dozen members of Congress.

The ACLU’s lawsuit was filed on behalf of several civil rights groups. It wants a federal judge in New York to rule that the law is an unconstitutional violation of free speech and the right against unlawful search and seizure.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bodies of two missing US soldiers are found in Iraq

DETROIT (AP)—The bodies of two U.S. soldiers missing in Iraq for more than a year have been found, their families said Thursday night. The military would not immediately confirm the report. The father of Army Sgt. Alex Jimenez, of Lawrence, Mass., said the remains of his son and another soldier, Pvt. Byron W. Fouty, of Waterford, Mich., had been identified in Iraq. Jimenez, 25, and Fouty, 19, were kidnapped along with a third member of the 2nd Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division during an ambush in May 2007 in the volatile area south of Baghdad known as the “triangle of death.” The body of the third seized soldier, Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr. of Torrance, Calif., was found in the Euphrates River a year later.

Calif. National Guard joins firefighting effort

ALBION, Calif. (AP)—California’s wildfire season has become so severe so swiftly that for the first time in more than 30 years, National Guard troops have been deployed to fight the flames on the ground. Many are arriving at the fire line just after returning from combat zones. Hundreds of lightning-sparked fires have burned more than 1,000 square miles and destroyed nearly 100 homes in the last three weeks. The first wave of 200 troops took their places Wednesday.

Obama seeks info on Dodd in vice president search

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama’s presidential campaign has requested information from Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd as part of its search for a possible vice presidential candidate. The

former White House hopeful and Connecticut lawmaker indicated Wednesday that he has been approached by the campaign. “There’s been some inquiries, yeah,” Dodd said. “They ask for a lot of stuff. I’ll leave it there.”

Woman pleads innocent to killing pregnant woman

KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP)—A woman pleaded innocent Thursday to stabbing a pregnant woman to death and cutting the baby out of her womb. The charge of aggravated first-degree murder against Phiengchai Sisouvanh Synhavong, 23, carries either the death penalty or life in prison without parole, if she is convicted. Araceli Camacho Gomez, 27, was found dead in a city park on June 27, stabbed multiple times. Her baby had been cut from her body. Police have said Sisouvanh Synhavong tried to pass off the baby as her own in calls to emergency dispatchers. The baby boy is in serious condition at a hospital in Spokane.

Jury: Black neighborhood was denied water service

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Residents of a mostly black neighborhood in rural Ohio were awarded nearly \$11 million Thursday by a federal jury that found local authorities denied them public water service for decades out of racial discrimination. Each of the 67 plaintiffs was awarded \$15,000 to \$300,000, depending on how long they had lived in the Coal Run neighborhood, about 5 miles east of Zanesville in Muskingum County in east-central Ohio. The money covers both monetary losses and the residents’ pain and suffering between 1956, when water lines were first laid in the area, and 2003, when Coal Run got public water.

Asia

Indon man executed for the murder of 42

JAKARTA, Indonesia

(AP)—Indonesia executed a man convicted of killing 42 women and girls in a series of ritual slayings he believed would give him magical powers, his lawyer said Friday.

Ahmad Suradji, 57, was killed by firing squad late Thursday in western Indonesia despite a last minute appeal by Amnesty International, a U.K.-based human rights advocacy group that opposes capital punishment in all cases.

“He appeared resigned to his fate,” said Attorney General Office’s spokesman Bonaventura Nainggolan. “His final wish was to see his wife. We fulfilled this.”

Suradji was arrested in May 1997 following the discovery of a body in a field close to this house in Lubukpakan, a village in North Sumatra province. Forty-one other corpses were later found nearby.

Police have said the victims came to Suradji because they believed he had supernatural

powers. The victims were believed to have been seeking his help in making their husbands or boyfriends faithful, find a partner or get rich.

He lured them to the field and buried them up to the waist, telling them it was part of the ritual. He then strangled them and buried their bodies



MAMMOTH DISPLAY

(AP)—The frozen remains of two woolly mammoths, long extinct elephants in the Ice Age uncovered from the Siberian permafrost, are seen on display in a refrigerated viewing box, at the Taiwan National Democracy Memorial Hall, in Taipei, Taiwan, Friday, July 11, 2008.

ASIAN BRIEFS

SKorea proposes reviving NKorea talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea’s president offered Friday to resume stalled reconciliation talks with North Korea, saying he is willing to carry out previous accords with Pyongyang and provide the impoverished nation with food aid. The proposal, in a speech President Lee Myung-bak delivered to the new parliament, was a turnaround from his previous tougher policy against the communist regime. “Full dialogue between the two Koreas must resume,” he told parliament, according to his prepared remarks. “The South Korean government is willing to engage in serious consultations on how to implement” the summit deals and other previous agreements between the two sides.

SKorean tourist shot by NKorean soldier

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A tourism company says a South Korean visitor to a North Korean mountain resort was fatally shot by a North Korean soldier. Hyundai Asan says the North Korean soldier opened fire after the woman crossed into a restricted area at a beach inside the resort area Friday morning. Hyundai Asan operates the Diamond Mountain resort as a tourist enclave inside the communist North. It is one of two North Korean tourist programs run by the company.

Malaysian PM pressured to quit sooner

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia’s prime minister has pledged to retire in 2010, but the two-year wait may not satisfy some dissidents clamoring for a quick cleanup at the top after an election debacle, analysts and party members said Friday. Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced Thursday an agreement to hand over power to his deputy, Najib Razak, by mid-2010. He had hoped to placate dissidents unhappy with his leadership, under which the rul-

ing National Front coalition suffered its worst election outcome in March 8 polls. “I am a bit disappointed. We wanted him to expedite the power transition. Two years is too long,” said Puad Zarkashi, a prominent member of Abdullah’s United Malays National Organization. June 2009 would have been a more appropriate date for his resignation, he said.

Military: Gunmen kill 3 on Sri Lanka bus

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Suspected rebel gunmen ambushed a crowded passenger bus Friday as it traveled down a small rural road in southern Sri Lanka, killing three people, the military said. The attack came amid a sharp spike in fighting in Sri Lanka’s civil war between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels in the jungles of the north, and underscored the rebels’ continued ability to strike deep inside government-controlled territory. About 10:30 a.m., a group of gunmen hiding by the side of the road near the southern village of Buttala raked the civilian bus with gunfire as it passed, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara. The bus driver continued driving through the ambush and stopped only when he reached safety, Nanayakkara said. He blamed the rebels for the attack, which killed three passengers and wounded 22 others.

Beijing holds Olympic opening rehearsal

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing organizers have staged a full dress rehearsal of next month’s Olympics opening ceremony under strict secrecy, state media reported Friday. A rundown of the 3 1/2-hour event was held overnight Thursday at the newly built National Stadium, with security guards manning three concentric rings of checkpoints, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

World

'Iran doctored photo of missile launches'

NEW YORK (AP)—An Iranian photograph showing a cluster of missile launches was apparently altered to add a fourth missile lifting off from a desert range, a defense analyst said Thursday.

"There's no doubt the photo was doctored," said Mark Fitzpatrick, director of the Non-Proliferation Program for the London-based International Institute For Strategic Studies.

The image, posted Wednesday on a Web site owned by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, showed four missiles moments after launch, leaving trails of glowing exhaust and clouds of billowing brown dust.

The scene was described as part of military maneuvers in which nine missiles were test fired, including an enhanced version of the Shahab-3. Iranian officials say the new missile has a range of 1,250 miles, which would enable a strike on Israel and most of the Middle East. The tests drew immediate criti-

cism from Washington.

Some media outlets used the photo, but it was not carried by The Associated Press.

The photo on the Sepah News site was replaced Thursday with an image showing three missiles—which appear to be the same as the earlier photo. In place of the fourth missile, however, the photo showed one still on the ground in its launch position and what appears to be a vehicle nearby.

That photo was used by the AP. The image with four launches was taken off the Sepah site's main news page, but both photos were on its archive Thursday.

Fitzpatrick, a former State Department official who followed arms control issues, believes the photo was manipulated after the missile malfunctioned.

"They had a rocket launch and one failed," he said. "They have had other tests that have succeeded, but Iran tends to exaggerate its capabilities."

UN to probe Bhutto killing

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. chief has agreed to Pakistan's request to establish an independent commission that will investigate the killing of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's office confirmed the agreement moments after it was announced by Pakistan's top diplomat.

"The objectives are for the commission to identify the culprits, perpetrators, organizers and financiers of the assassination," Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters Thursday, just after a brief, private meeting with Ban. Determining who was behind

Bhutto's killing could help stabilize a nation that is a key U.S. ally in the fight against terrorism, but has been struggling against an influx of insurgents joining with al-Qaida and other militant groups in Pakistan's remote tribal and mountainous areas.

The previous government blamed the Taliban in Pakistan for the attack against Bhutto, but suspicions surrounding her death have been cast far and wide—a further reason for the government's pressing to clear up the matter. Qureshi assured reporters that Ban would appoint "well-respected, eminent people" to the independent commission.

Zimbabwe government and opposition meet in S.Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Seeking a way out of their country's political crisis, Zimbabwean government and opposition officials met in South Africa, with the opposition pressing for an end to attacks on its supporters.

Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai said Thursday that he sent a team to Pretoria, the capital, led by his top deputy Tendai Biti to lay down conditions for talks—not to open negotiations.

Chief among the conditions is an end to violence blamed on Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe's supporters, he said.

"At present the state-sanctioned violence and repressive legislation employed by the regime is designed to silence the Zimbabwean people," Tsvangirai said in a statement.

Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change is "committed to finding a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Zimbabwean crisis and we will take every opportunity to clarify our position and to allow the voice of the Zimbabwean people to be heard," he said.

Recently, Mugabe's party has shown increasing eagerness to start talks, apparently in the hope of persuading U.N. Security Council members to reject a U.S.-drafted resolution to impose sanctions on Mugabe and some of his top political and security officials. The council is expected to vote on the resolution this week.

But Zimbabwe warned Thursday night that any more sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe could push the nation to civil war.



The image at right shows three missiles being launched in Iran. The photograph at left was apparently altered to add a fourth missile lifting off from a desert range, according to defense analyst Mark Fitzpatrick.



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Maharlika – PinoyNews

DOLE prepares aid for Saipan OFW

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Labor and Employment on Thursday said it has started preparing to extend assistance for the family of a Saipan-based overseas Filipino worker who is feared to be among the fatalities in the MV *Princess of the Stars* tragedy.

In a statement on the DOLE website, Labor Secretary Mari-

anito Roque cited a report from a labor attaché in Saipan saying that Editha Lisbo Ybanez took the ill-fated vessel from Manila to visit her family in Surigao City.

Roque said Ybanez—who remains missing up to now—was listed in the passenger manifest of the capsized vessel. Her kin are in Cebu waiting for developments on the recovery of bodies

from the vessel.

He said the DOLE and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration are prepared to help the family of Ybanez in the event she has been identified as among those who died.

Roque said he also directed OWWA to monitor developments and immediately coordinate with authorities involved

in the maritime tragedy once Ybanez's remains have been identified.

OWWA personnel were also instructed to brief the concerned relatives of the mishap victim on the benefits that OWWA members are entitled to.

He said the family of Ybanez would be entitled to insurance, death, and other



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Editha Ybanez is shown here in a file photo taken at the Obyan Beach.

ber is covered with life insurance for the duration of his/her overseas employment contract. The coverage includes P100,000 for natural death and P200,000 for accidental death. An additional burial benefit of P20,000 shall also be provided to the family of a deceased member," DOLE said.

Ybanez' nearest kin may also avail of scholarships from OWWA, Roque said.

"Aside from insurance and scholarships, OWWA members are entitled to health care, family welfare assistance, and various services onsite," Roque said.

Ybanez' employer on Saipan was Commonwealth Utilities Corp. budget and fiscal officer Betty Terlaje. (GMA News.TV)

Court junks Sulpicio suit to stop hearing

By ALLISON LOPEZ, JEROME ANING, LEILA SALAVERRIA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Manila Regional Trial Court Thursday dismissed for lack of merit a petition by Sulpicio Lines Inc. to stop the Board of Marine Inquiry (BMI) from investigating the sinking of the MV *Princess of the Stars*.

In a three-page decision, Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr. of Manila RTC Branch 24 said the

power and duty of the Maritime Industry Authority revealed "no inconsistency" with the BMI's prerogative to investigate maritime incidents.

Sulpicio Lines earlier claimed that MARINA had the sole authority to look into maritime accidents and that the BMI members were biased.

In junking Sulpicio's petition for a temporary restraining order, the court cited the 2005 memorandum of agreement in which MARINA and

the Philippine Coast Guard recognized the BMI's authority to investigate marine casualties or incidents.

MARINA, said the judge, "clearly abdicated" its supposedly exclusive jurisdiction in the MOA.

No need for TRO

On the apparent bias of certain BMI members, the court said there was no need to resort to a TRO as the complainants could seek the inhibition of those they

believed to be partial.

BMI vice chair Rear Adm. Benjamin Mata and BMI member Capt. Amado Romillo resigned from the board on Tuesday to preserve the integrity of the investigation.

Judge Eugenio, however, warned the BMI and MARINA "to get their act together" as both agencies under the Department of Transportation and Communications were undertaking separate probes of the same maritime incident.

benefits from OWWA.

Roque said Ybanez renewed her OWWA membership at the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Saipan only last June 16, and was issued an overseas employment certificate the following day shortly before her departure from Saipan to Manila.

"Under OWWA rules, a mem-

Sulu police chief confirms ransom for ABS-CBN news team

By ALCUIN PAPA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The police commander for the Sulu province finally admitted that a second ransom was paid for the release of ABS-CBN crew kidnapped in the province last June.

In a complete turnaround from his previous statements made to the Philippine Daily Inquirer last month, Senior Superintendent Julasirim Kasim said in his statement made to CIDG, a copy of which was obtained by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, that the money arrived aboard a Seaair flight from Zamboanga at the Jolo airport on June 17.

The money, Kasim said, was under the care of lawyer "Nasser Ynawat," who was identified in previous reports as Nestor Inawat. The lawyer is said to be the legal counsel of Indanan, Sulu Mayor Alvarez Isnaji and is a provincial board member.

Kasim said the money was placed in two black bags. He did not say how much the money, but he saw bundles of P500 and P1,000 bills.

The Sulu police commander said that when the money arrived, he intercepted it. "He (Ynawat) was the only passenger of the airplane. I invited him to my office in Camp Asturias to be clear why he was holding the ransom when he was not a member of the negotiating panel of the government or the family nor was he designated to handle the ransom money or to negotiate with the kidnappers," Kasim said in his statement in Filipino.



QUAKE DRILL

Rescue workers recover a mock victim during an earthquake drill at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig city, south of Manila, Philippines on Thursday July 10, 2008. The drill was done in observance of the National Disaster Consciousness Month to generate public awareness and conduct rescue exercises in the wake of recent earthquakes in various parts of the world.

Q: LABOR FRONT

Labor hearing officer's authority

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

cords have been negligently or inappropriately kept.

Q: What is the authority of the Labor hearing officer with respect to issues on unpaid wages and damages?

A: The Labor hearing officer is authorized to award unpaid wages or overtime compensation and amounts unlawfully deducted from wages or unlawfully required by an employer to be paid by a foreign national worker.

According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the hearing officer is also authorized to award damages for unlawful termination of an approved employment contract, or damages, when appropriate, for conduct of the employer that is in violation of Commonwealth law.

The hearing officer can also "assess liquidated damages of up to six months wages if actual damages are uncertain or cannot be ascertained under a satisfactory or known rule in cases in which the employer's conduct is found to have been retaliatory."

Q: Is a Labor hearing officer authorized to cancel an entry permit?

A: The Regulations state that the Labor hearing officer can cancel or modify an entry permit or an approved employment contract. The hearing officer can also require an employer to pay alien workers only by check or direct deposit in a U.S. bank payable in U.S. currency (no cash payments) in cases where payment re-

11 in 2003 mutiny dismissed from military, face coup raps

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

legation in a civil court of plotting a coup d'état along with 11 co-defendants.

Nine other soldiers were convicted by the same civil court of planning to overthrow the government in April and sentenced to 40 years in prison, but Arroyo pardoned them a month later.

About 300 officers and troops occupied a hotel and an adjacent shopping mall in the Makati financial district and rigged the area with bombs on July 27, 2003.

They demanded that Arroyo and other officials resign for alleged corruption, but surrendered after a 19-hour standoff.

Only six of the original mutineers remain under military trial. Charges against others have been dismissed or lowered in a plea bargain.

Among those still in military detention was former navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes, who won a Senate seat in 2007. Another prominent mutineer, marine Capt. Nicomedes Faeldon, escaped in November when he, Trillanes and others walked out of their trial and occupied another five-star hotel.

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4 workers released after 15-day captivity

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines

(AP)—Muslim militants released four workers of an electric company who were kidnapped on a southern Philippine island last month, police said Friday.

The workers, who were traveling in a jeep when they were stopped and dragged away at gunpoint on the predominantly Muslim island of Basilan, were handed over to government emissaries late Thursday, said Basilan police chief Salik Macapantar.

He refused to say if ransom was paid following their 15-day captivity, as has been the case with previous kidnappings by the al-Qaida-linked

Abu Sayyaf group.

Authorities have warned that kidnappings for ransom and extortion, along with funds from foreign terrorist allies, have allowed the Abu Sayyaf to survive and finance deadly bombings and other atrocities for years.

Macapantar said he ordered police commandos to track down the kidnappers.

They were believed to be led by a local commander, Nur Hasan Jamiri, who was backed by gunmen linked to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the main Muslim rebel group engaged in peace talks with the government, the military said earlier.

5.4 quake jolts Central Mindanao

By JOEL GUINTO

INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—A 5.4 magnitude earthquake rocked parts of central Mindanao early Friday, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the 1:32 a.m. tremor, the epicenter of which was located 65 kilometers west of Koronadal, the capital of South Cotabato province, Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum said.

Intensity 4 was felt in the towns of Banga, Surallah, Sto. Niño, Norala, Tebuli, Tambang

kan, Polomolok, Tupi, Takdakan, and Pantangan, and Lake Sebu in South Cotabato.

Intensity 3 was felt in Palembang town, Sultan Kudarat province, while Intensity 2 was felt in the cities of Cotabato and General Santos.

"This is a tectonic earthquake and it is not related to the Aurora quakes," Solidum said in a text message.

Solidum was referring to the string of tremors or "earthquake swarm" in Aurora province in the northwest and nearby provinces, which started last week, and was caused by the movement of the East Luzon Trough in the Pacific Ocean.

Neri under attack again

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR., MICHAEL LIM UBAC

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Back in the public glare, Romulo Neri Thursday insisted that he was qualified to serve as administrator of the Social Security System, and that criticisms of his new appointment were "unfair."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Neri's appointment to a Cabinet-rank position was clearly intended to give him the right to invoke executive privilege in parrying questions in the stalled Senate inquiry into the NBN-ZTE deal and Ms Arroyo's involvement in it.

"The appointment is meant to prevent Neri from further spilling the beans on Gloria Arroyo," the senator said.

Asked if he would be willing to tell all if summoned anew by the Senate to shed light on the bribe-tainted deal, Neri said: "Executive privilege will stay with me for the rest of my life. It will stay because [the NBN-ZTE scandal] happened when I was a Cabinet member."

"My record in government speaks for itself," Neri, the reluctant witness in the scrapped National Broadband Network deal with China's ZTE Corp., said in an ambush interview in Malacañang.

"They (critics) could check my biodata. They could check on how I performed in various functions at NEDA, DBM and CHED. And I think I performed satisfactorily," he said.

Neri, who currently chairs the Commission on Higher Education, will replace Corazon De la Paz at the SSS. He had previously held the posts of director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Neri reminded his critics, including opposition Senators Manuel Roxas II and Francis Escudero, that he had impeccable credentials as a financial manager: "I'm an MBA (master of business administration) graduate of UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles), major in finance, international business, and my background has also been finance."

It was the second Abu Sayyaf kidnapping in a month. Earlier in June, the militants based on nearby Jolo island snatched three journalists, including popular TV news anchor Ces Drilon. They were freed more than

a week later, after ransom was paid, police said.

The kidnappings have revived fears about the Abu Sayyaf, which had been dismissed as a spent force by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government

after U.S.-backed offensives killed its leader, Khaddafi Janjalani, and senior commanders.

Washington has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf, which is estimated to have more than 300 armed members, because of their

involvement in kidnappings, bombings and beheadings. In 2004, the militants were blamed for an explosion that set a ferry ablaze in Manila Bay, killing 116 people in Southeast Asia's second-worst terrorist attack.



'BURDEN TO THE MASSES'

Student activists burn an effigy of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as they call for her ouster during a rally near the presidential palace gates in Manila, Philippines on Thursday July 10, 2008. The activists were also protesting against the continued rise in fuel and food prices. The sign reads "Burden to the masses."

Only eight of 206 bodies are identified

By TINA SANTOS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Only eight of the 206 bodies recovered from the ill-fated MV *Princess of the Stars* have so far been identified, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Lawyer Allan Contado, bureau spokesperson, said the identified bodies have been released to their families.

Of the 206 bodies brought to Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes in Cebu City, 186 have already been processed, he said, citing a report sent by the NBI medical experts in the area.

"Only 20 have yet to be processed, but we expect more bodies once the ship is refloated," Contado added.

The NBI has also taken DNA samples of at least 686 relatives of the victims for processing.

"The DNA processing would be conducted in Sarajevo, the capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and would take weeks," he said.

Earlier, the bureau stopped the public viewing of the mostly unrecognizable corpses, saying these could only be identified through DNA testing.

Dr. Renato Bautista, officer in charge of the NBI medicolegal division who heads a

group of forensic experts in Cebu City, said in an earlier interview that the order to stop public viewing was also prompted by complaints from business establishment owners in the area where the bodies were being examined for identification.

"Business in the area has been affected because of the very foul odor coming from the cadavers. That's why business establishments, particularly the restaurants, were complaining because people have been avoiding the place," Bautista said.

"And the city health officers were asking us how we could control the foul smell, so we've decided to seal the cadavers and stop the public viewing," he added.

And besides, Bautista stressed, the bloated and decomposing bodies made it hard for the relatives to properly recognize them.

"[The cadavers] were already in the advanced stage of decomposition. It would already be impossible for the bodies to be identified [through viewing]," he explained.

The NBI official said their only chance to identify the bodies now would be through DNA testing, dental record and fingerprint analysis.

Fishermen: Slow cleanup after disaster endangers livelihood

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—About 1,000 fishermen on Thursday urged the owners of a ferry that sank last month to speed up the retrieval of hundreds of bodies and the ship's toxic cargo,

saying a fishing ban imposed after the disaster threatens their livelihood.

The 23,800-ton (21,600-metric ton) *Princess of the Stars* went belly up in rough seas on June 21, and only 32 of the more than 850 on board survived. The bodies of 247 people washed ashore or were recovered from the sea.

The fishermen of central Sibuyan island took their boats close to where the tip of the ferry's bow protrudes from the sea. They sang a prayer for the victims, and urged the government and owner Sulpicio Lines Inc. to hurry up with salvage operations before the monsoon rains begin within the next few weeks.

"They should not wait for the monsoon. The waves will be as big as those during the typhoon," said protest leader Nanito Romero.

He also complained that residents have been suffering since authorities imposed a fishing ban in the area after discovering that the ferry was carrying 22,000 pounds (10,000 kilograms) of a toxic pesticide.

Plans to retrieve the steel container holding the pesticide endosulfan intended for pineapple plantations of Del Monte Philippines were aborted last week in favor of refloating the entire vessel.

Edgar Go, Sulpicio vice president, said Thursday his company planned to refloat the ferry "at the earliest possible time." He refused to give details or say how long it will take.

Transportation Undersecretary Maria Elena Bautista earlier estimated it would take "at least two to three months to refloat the vessel and retrieve the bodies."

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Will Ryan, Piolo make up in Paris?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—I wonder if Piolo Pascual finally patched things up with Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo, now that they are all in France attending the Paris Cinema International Film Festival.

Trouble started when Ryan and PJ clashed. The demarcation line between Judai's team-up with PJ and her romance with Ryan was beginning to blur. Will the romantic charm of the City of Lights soften their hearts somehow?

Celebrating life

Ces Drilon is back in full swing



Drilon

Lacaba bags lifetime achievement award in int'l film fest

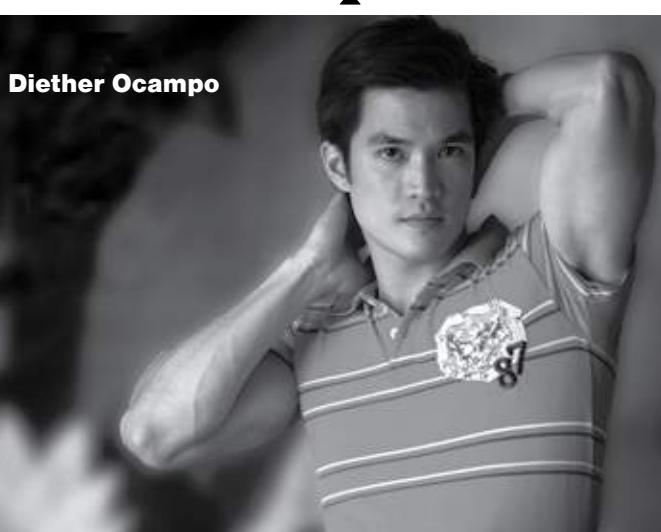
By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Filipino scriptwriter Jose F. Lacaba is the Aruna Vasudev Lifetime Achievement awardee at the 10th Osian's-Cinefan Festival of Arab and Asian Cinema in New Delhi.

Lacaba—who penned the Lino Brocka classics “Jaguar,” “Bayan Ko: Kapit sa Patalim” and “Orapronobis”—is set to receive the award Friday in the Indian capital.

According to the Osian's-Cinefan website, the Lifetime Achievement honor is given to an “author, critic or scriptwriter for distinguished contribution to cinema.”

“Jaguar” competed at the Cannes International Film



after her harrowing Sulu ordeal. She and ex-husband Rock are hosting an art exhibit cum thanksgiving party at their Mag.net Gallery branch in Katipunan on July 8.

That's art celebrating life! Even if they are no longer a couple, Ces and Rock remain friends, business partners and, most of all, parents to four handsome boys. Rock was with them throughout Ces' captivity. (One son is studying in the US.) Their bond is rock solid.

Now that Ces and cameramen Jimmy Encarnacion and Angel Valderrama are well on the way

to full recovery, it's high time a documentary was shown—including footage taken in the kidnappers' lair. Catch the exclusive story behind the story in “Kidnap” on ABS-CBN, July 13, 10 p.m. C'est la Ces!

Like his character

Diether Ocampo gives the performance of his life in “Lisa Pa Lamang,” as a rebel who falls hard for a woman who changes his life forever.

“I'm so much like my character Miguel, kaya bigay-todo ang acting ko,” reveals Diet. “I've done crazy things for

film culture for our times.”

Lacaba told Inquirer that the award is significant because it honors “scriptwriters who are usually not as recognized as directors.”

It comes with a cash prize.

Lacaba said Mike de Leon's “Sister Stella L.” which he co-wrote with De Leon and Jose Almojuela, will be screened at the fest tomorrow.

“Conversational Tagalog” is what he strives to achieve in his scripts, Lacaba said, like his idol, Augusto “Totoy” Buenaventura, who wrote and directed Joseph Estrada movies.

Two Filipino movies—Jim Libiran's “Tribu” and Jerrold Tarog and Ruel Dahis Antipuesto's “Confessional”—are competing at the 10th Osian's-Cinefan, which concludes on July 20.

concludes July 12.

The digital movie, which chronicles the violent lives and deaths of rapper gangs in Tondo, won Best Film in the Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival last year. Libiran told the Inquirer: “Tondo kids yearn for respect and recognition for their talents. They yearn to show the world how talented Filipinos are.”

The French festival featured a special program that showcased 47 Philippine films.

“To be recognized in the city where cinema was born is immensely satisfying,” Libiran said. “We won the Pari de L'Avenir by a jury of students and a film reviewer from the film magazine Positif.”

As part of the prize, “Tribu” will be promoted for possible distribution in France. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Claudine, Angel in salon skirmish—sources

MANILA, Philippines—Making the rounds is the rumor that Kapamilya stars Claudine Barretto and Angel Locsin had an “exchange of words” in a salon.

Two sources relayed the report to Inquirer. A third source, very reliable, obliquely confirmed it, but added that details were “sketchy.”

Reported cause of the altercation was a battle for endorsement deals. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

'Tribu' wins Youth Jury Prize at Paris film fest

MANILA, Philippines—Jim Libiran's “Tribu” won the Youth Jury Prize at the 6th Paris Cinema International Film Festival, which

love. Like the time I intentionally fought with a GF and upset her the whole day, then surprised her with a candlelit dinner by the pool in a hotel with a sax player.”

Is his new love the mestiza girl spotted during the press preview of his new soap? “My mom was my date,” Diet says, laughing. Best love lesson he has learned? “You just have to keep on loving, so will stop hurting.” Straight from the heart of a certified heartthrob who's no heartbreaker.

In shock

Rachel Alejandro is still in a state of disbelief after winning the P1 million jackpot in “Singin' Bee.”

“It's a welcome addition to the downpayment for a condo unit I'm buying at the Fort,” says Rachel.

The million-peso girl had a victory party with her BF Philip Palma and friends at a suite in Ascott Hotel. Her big win revs her up all the more to record a new album.

“It will be called ‘By Request.’ Song suggestions may be sent through <http://www.rachalejandro.com>.”

Will she be singing “A Million Thanks to You?”

Just friends

There's no possibility for romance to blossom between onstage lovers Christian Bautista and Karylle, even without Dingdong Dantes in her life. “I knew Christian before I met Dingdong,” explains K. “No falling (in love) happened so I can safely say that we're just meant to be

friends. Napagalitan nga kami ni Tito Audi Gemora sa pictorial of “West Side Story” kasi I kept laughing. Had to pretend that we were super in love sa poses namin.” Strike a pose sans being lovestruck.

Funny Regine

Regine Velasquez is such a natural in “Kim Samsoon” as a fat chef who's hungry for love. I asked her BF Ogie Alcasid if he gave Regine comedy acting tips, since

he's a “Bubble Gang” mainstay.

“No need to teach her,” beams Ogie. “She's naturally funny.” Their funniest moment together? “In a horror booth in Los Angeles,” says Ogie. “Being the guy, I was supposed to protect her. Pero ako pa ang natakot! It was hilarious!”

The couple that laughs together stays together. Regine and Ogie have mastered the right mix of music, laughter and love.

New crush

Dennis Trillo is over and done with talking about Carlene Aguilar and Cristine Reyes. “Pass muna ako diyan,” he pleads.

Dens' new crush is Heart Evangelista, but falling in love again is the least of his priorities for now. “I admire Heart a lot pero saka na muna ang love. I have to double my efforts for ‘Gagambino,’ my biggest break ever,” he says. “I have to be in my best physical form so I'd look like a superhero in the series. I swim, mountain bike, do capoeira and watch mixed martial arts videos to prepare for the role.”

PERSONAL FINANCE

Four steps to a great career

By HEINZ BULOS
MONEYSENSE

Editor's Note: This article is from MoneySense, the country's first and only personal finance magazine. Visit www.moneysense.com.ph for more.

Every year, the Philippines churns out more than a hundred thousand management graduates in its top three courses — business administration, education, and engineering. Unfortunately, most of them end up unemployed or doing something else.

How many of us take up courses and pursue careers on the basis of what our parents want or what the “hot jobs” abroad supposedly are? Before it was physical therapy, then computer science; now it's nursing. They may pay well, but you could end up miserable.

Career planning should be a lifelong process, starting even before entering college. It may take time and effort to prepare your career plan, but it will be worth it. Here are four steps to take:

ASSESS YOURSELF

Get to know who you are and what you want. Taking stock of your values, interests, skills, and personal qualities will give you a better idea of what you should do.

Cora Llamas, editor of JobSDB.com.ph, says, “Every career columnist worth his salt would advise you this way: choose your passion. Balance that with your skills. What are

you really good at?”

There are plenty of free assessment tools you can use such as Career Interests Game, CAREERLINK Inventory, and the Princeton Review Career Quiz.

Cora points out though, “Nothing still beats discussing your career dreams with an actual human being who has seen the landscape and can point you to the right direction.”

DO RESEARCH

Identify possible occupations and evaluate them based on your interests and skills. You can learn about specific jobs just by reading job want ads. You can also try internships for the summer or on-the-job training to give you a real-world perspective.

There are a lot of books and Web sites that share information, including online forums that divulge starting salaries and company reputations.

“While some Web sites post information, I'd recommend really talking to professionals in the industry,” Cora explains. “They can tell you first-hand the job expectations, rewards, and risks.”

WRITE YOUR PLAN

It is at this point that you should be writing down your career plan. A typical outline should have your educational background and, if applicable, employment history and volunteer work.

Write down the results of your self-assessment. List down the occupations that those tests suggested are fit for

you. Then put in writing your short- and long-term career goals, which will help chart your development and monitor your progress.

List down barriers that may block you to reach your goals, such as lack of available job openings, zero work experience, and family issues, and then identify solutions to these problems.

ACT ON IT

You can get information about specific companies and job requirements from their Web sites and online job matching sites. Cora explains, “After you've gotten the inside scoop and developed some acceptable skills, network. Polish your résumé. Spread the word out that you are available. Do what it takes to get that job interview.”

“Then once you are in, study the career path. Educate yourself on what your higher-ups are doing. Understand their responsibilities and deliverables, and aim to acquire the skills that will get you promoted,” she says.

Even if you don't get a perfect match, keep on trying. Cora says, “Be pragmatic. Work on something that pays the bills, gives you credentials, and enhances your network. But don't forget your passion and nurture it after office hours.”

“In time, you can develop a system that balances both and give you both fulfillment and a livable salary, or you can earn enough to make the jump to the career that you do want,” she says.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Criminal and sinful

It is not easy to go through one calamity after another. I marvel at the government, especially agencies like the National Disaster Coordinating Center, or the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Every year, they respond to disasters and natural calamities. I do not know when they began doing this, but I can only assume that it has been at least decades. And I can throw in the Philippine National Red Cross into the same pot of institutional players in disaster or calamity mitigation.

How do you feel with so much death and dying every time, with so much illness and pain, with so much shock and trauma—year after year, and often in the same areas? Has the work become just so routine, death and destruction so familiar, mourning and despair so commonplace that we can feel but we cannot think well anymore? Is intervention work in affected barrios, towns and cities seen as inevitable because we are in the typhoon path, in the rim of fire, in the earthquake belt, and host so much landslide-prone areas?

Are not the lives of so many Filipinos worth enough for people with authority, influence and wealth to focus on as much as they focus on politics, religion and business? Are disasters and human pain less in value because their regular victims, the poor, are a burden? Has it all just boiled down to winning elections, or making profits? Where has true concern for others gone? What has happened to human intelligence?

Or is it, perhaps, a “matapobre” attitude in which the loss and pain of the poor simply do not merit enough importance, so much so that their death, illness or extended misery during and after disasters mean little to those in high places, or in high society? If the calamities kill or maim or bankrupt the rich and powerful, will not societal leaders quickly enough to sit down and think of a way that disasters do not kill, maim or bankrupt them ever again?

There is little we can do about the weather, about the dynamics of nature, except maybe if we accept with great faith the conclusions and warnings of those more concerned about the environment. But if we cannot stop nature from blowing a storm, from dumping rain in heavy doses, from shaking us every so often with a quake or two, we can still do so much to protect ourselves and dramatically lessen the risk of death and destruction. In fact, the rich and the powerful have been doing so from time immemorial. In the course of human history, there is always a group that is affected the least and the ma-

jority of people who suffer the most.

I can understand when mankind was ruled by autocratic mindsets, from theocracies to “datu” systems, that royalty and the anointed were served by everyone else. From that status, the powerful were also rich, and were far safer than most others. But modern times have moved the civilized world farther from an authoritarian past to a present that challenges the empowerment of the many. Only bigots and fundamentalists cling desperately to power and control, much like Mugabe in Zimbabwe and one or two closer to home.

Democratizing power means democratizing rights, democratizing opportunities, but most of all, democratizing the value of life itself. In other words, the life of a poor person is as valuable as the life of a rich one. This principle has been loudly preached but so mutely observed. I can accept that differences exist, but these differences must be deliberately reduced by law and by religion as much as possible. Yet, at this day and age in Philippine evolution, the past clings like a lizard, and those in high places find it extremely difficult to level the playing field.

In a country whose political leaders claim is a democracy, the poor are treated as though we were still in the Middle Ages. All the glitter and accessories of state and church adherence to equality are mere external tokens. The reality is that equality is not accepted, not honored, and naturally not protected in the application of law and allocation of resources.

The law protects landowners. Yet, the law does not see to it that everyone can be a landowner, not even the great majority. It is as though the rich and powerful suddenly forget the lessons of high education, as though they are ignorant of the need for security of a poor Filipino family - a security that can come only from knowing that they have a piece of land in this beautiful and abundant country where no one can kick them out.

Land is vital to the human development of both the rural poor and the urban poor. It is directly integrated into their personal security system, and more so than the rich because the poor have no bank accounts or other resources to lean on when they feel fear, when they sense danger. Land is more than an economic asset; it represents stability and a place where people can plant their roots. Land is like water and air, an element without which life is not possible.

Homes are for dignity where land is for life. The kind of homes

or take the trouble to read the markers and remember history made on that hallowed spot.

No speeches were delivered there, just a floral offering and a very impressive execution of arrival honors by the Philippine Marines, complete with gunfire that no doubt made some startled pedestrians dive for cover. If I weren't safe with the mayor of Manila, I would have looked for a safe place to hide at the first crack of gunfire, friendly or otherwise.

When speeches are made to young people in the 21st century about the exploits of heroes of the late 19th century, I wonder if the story sinks in. This is why reading the firsthand accounts of historical events by actual participants is more effective.

Gregoria de Jesus wrote a short autobiography in 1928, “Mga tala ng aking buhay,” that talks about her experiences:

“I had no fear of danger, not even death itself, whenever I accompanied the soldiers in battle, impelled as I was then by no other desire than to see unfurled the flag of an independent Philippines, and I was present in and witnessed many encounters. I was considered a soldier, and to be a true one, I learned how to ride, to shoot a rifle, and to manipulate other weapons which I actually used on many occasions.

“I have known what it is to sleep on the ground without tasting food for the whole day, to drink dirty water from mud-holes or the sap of vines which, though bitter, tasted delicious because of my intense thirst. When I came to think of my life in those days, considering my youth then, I am surprised by how I stood it all, and how I was spared.”

Oryang's narrative reads so much better in the original Tagalog, but then this is an English language column so we have to make do with the translation.

She returned to her parent's house in Caloocan and gave birth to a son they christened Andres Bonifacio. That child did not survive. When the Revolution broke out in August 1896, she had to move from place to place to evade arrest.

“While I was with my parents, through friends, I learned that I too would be apprehended. I therefore decided to escape right away and I did so at 11 at night with the intention of returning to Manila under cover, going through the rice fields direct to La Loma. I was treated like an apparition (‘isang katatakutan’), for, sad to say, from every house where I tried to get a little rest, I was driven away as if the people therein were mortally frightened.”

GLIMPSSES

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO

INQUIRER.net



Responses may be sent to jlmglimpse@gmail.com.

that people have reflect the level of dignity they have, strive for, or are forced to accept. The poor do not have dignity, and that is why they do not have homes. They have shanties, they have hovels, they even have the equivalent of pig sties—but they have no homes because they have no dignity.

Why do the poor have no security and no dignity when democracy guarantees them equality by law? Why are they less than other human beings when Christianity has a preferential option for the poor? It is not a matter where temporary circumstances bring fortunes up or down. This is a case where inequality has been imposed by the powerful for several centuries, where even moral leaders have never stood consistently for the poor whom they profess to be their priority.

It is criminal to gloss over the dangers that the poor are forced to accept when they have nowhere to go except in the most risky of areas, along canals and riverbanks, in vulnerable seashores, atop hills and on mountain slopes that are prone to slide. It is criminal at this point because we already know the patterns of nature, we already know how the poor have died or have been maimed, or have had their only hopes dashed away with every calamity.

It is also immoral beyond being criminal, and a mortal sin for religious shepherds to remain mute and feign helplessness when tens of millions of their flock are being sacrificed to satiate the greed and apathy of their more privileged counterparts. The Catholic Church, particularly, has no ascendancy of any kind when its hierarchy does not become militant to save lives, to protect lives, to value lives.

And for the rest of us, I am reminded of an old saying that is credited to the earliest of philosophers, Solon, and I quote, “Wrongdoing can be avoided only if those who are not wronged feel the same indignation for it as those who are.”

LOOKING BACK

By AMBETH OCAMPO

Philippine Daily Inquirer



Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

The places she visited were searched, and friends and relatives were arrested, tortured and exiled.

It is one thing to learn about the Revolution from textbooks. It is gut-wrenching to read the actual accounts, the primary sources. I re-read Oryang's autobiography every year to remind me of the sacrifices our heroes made so we can take freedom for granted today.

■ ■ ■

Last Thursday, France's Ambassador Gerard Chesnel pinned a heavy green medal on my elegant black barong Tagalog, making me an Officier in the Order of Arts and Letters. Since 1957, the French Ministry of Culture has conferred this honorific distinction on persons who have distinguished themselves in the arts, literature or the propagation of these fields in France and the world. Given out twice a year, the order has three grades: Chevalier, Officier and Commandeur, with Officier limited to 60 recipients a year worldwide.

Title-conscious friends asked how they should address me from now on. Should it be “Sir”—an undeserved honorific I gained since I began a life in a classroom 24 years ago? Should it be “Lord”—another honorific I carried in a previous life as a Benedictine monk where my name came with “Dom.” that critics took to mean “Dirty Old Monk”? Well, “Dom” is short for Dominus or Lord. Then I joined government and became “Honorable” overnight. The letters “Hon.” or “Kgg.” became a prefix to my name. Jaded, I was not prepared for what came next.

When I attended my first ministers' meeting in 2005 as chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts my local “Hon.” was translated into “Your Excellency” abroad. Obviously something was lost in translation, especially in Spain where the title is truly grand: “Excmo. Sr. Don.” Excelentísimo Señor Don was an honorific I truly relished.

Oryang's autobiography

MANILA, Philippines—Last Monday, July 7, was the 116th anniversary of the establishment of the Katipunan. Since it is not a national or even a local holiday, we are glad when some people care to remember. Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim held a simple memorial service at the Bonifacio Shrine beside City Hall, and in attendance were descendants of Andres Bonifacio from his sister Espiridiona. Wreaths were laid at the shrine, speeches were read, and one can only hope that the elementary and high school students who were given front-row seats in the event appreciated this impromptu history lesson.

Unfortunately, Carmen Guerrero Cruz Nakpil, chair of the Manila Historical Commission, was not around. Her first husband was a grandson of Jose Rizal's sister Maria, and her second was related to Andres Bonifacio's widow Gregoria “Oryang” de Jesus, who married Julio Nakpil and settled in Quiapo.

It was significant that Nakpil's “Marangal na Dalit ng Katagalugan” was played by the City Hall Band. I forgot to remind Mayor Lim that it was one of the stirring tunes of the Revolution, together with “Alerta Katipunan” and “Jocelynang Baluug.” Nakpil's tune was considered the anthem of the Katipunan and, if not for the tide of history that saw Emilio Aguinaldo installed as head of the revolutionary government and later as president of the First Philippine Republic, we would probably be singing the Nakpil anthem today rather than “Lupang Hinirang” by Julian Felipe of Cavite.

After the ceremony at the Bonifacio Shrine, the mayor invited me to join him in his car for a quick trip to Recto Avenue to visit the site where the Katipunan was founded on the night of July 7, 1892, the same day that Rizal's exile to Dapitan was announced in the newspapers. What people forget is that Rizal founded a civic society called La Liga Filipina in a house on Ilaya Street, Tondo, on July 3, 1892. It was in this organizational meeting that he met Bonifacio face to face. What they discussed (maybe they only exchanged pleasantries?) is lost to history and historians.

From the stillborn Liga was born the Katipunan. While both words mean “league,” the direction shifted with the change in leadership. The original house on 72 Azcaraga Street (now C. M. Recto Avenue) is no more. A bronze marker used to stand on a sidewalk to remind vendors and pedestrians that history took place on that spot. Now there is yet another tableau in bronze on the site to commemorate the event. Again I wonder if people who pass by notice,

Samu't Sari

No dirty money from OFWs yet

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO
WWW.OFWJOURNALISM.NET

MANILA (OFW Journalism Consortium)—Dirty money passing through or flowing into the country as monitored by the Philippine anti-money laundering unit hasn't involved overseas Filipino workers, yet, its executive director said.

Of the 18,269 suspicious transactions the Anti-Money Laundering Council flagged for the past six years ending 2007, none of these are linked to formal and informal flows of earnings by OFWs, data from AMLC revealed.

"So far, Filipino remitters have been compliant" to money laundering regulations, AMLC executive director Vicente Aquino said.

Aquino spoke to the *OFW Journalism Consortium* before a US court sentenced a man who admitted transferring approximately US\$15 million to bank accounts owned or controlled by co-conspirators in the Philippines. The money was part of a \$20-million scheme to defraud the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The statement dated March 1 issued by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division and US Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor of the District of Columbia didn't expound on how that much amount of money was transferred to Philippine bank accounts.

With remittances pumping Philippine consumption, monitoring its flow becomes highly important as a credible economic instrument.

Remittance flows to the Philippines is the world's third largest, according to recent World Bank ranking.

If the AMLC finds something irregular, it flags a Suspicious Transaction Report (STR).

However, none of those STRs covering overseas Filipinos' remittances have been flagged, Aquino added.

"They have no derogatory record" with the AMLC, Aquino said.

STRs in banks and non-bank financial institutions number to 15,469, AMLC data showed. Government-sourced STRs number to 2,679, insurance STRs number to 91, and STRs in securities number to 30.

All these STRs cover a total of nearly 104 million transactions, AMLC data showed.

Aquino said the AMLC had frozen a total of nearly P406 million in funds from banks and insurance proceeds. Some P272 million of the total is in Philippine peso. Meanwhile, the peso equivalents of those for other currencies are P125.48 million for US dollar transactions, P1.6 million for Japanese Yen transactions, P7.8 million for Hong Kong dollar transactions, and P60,596 for Euro transactions.

Vigilance

Aquino says despite the spotless record of OFWs in these transactions, the AMLC remains monitoring remittances.

Such is not an easy task since banks no longer hold the monopoly of platform for money transfer.

The information and communication technology boom has spawned fast cash flow via, for example, mobile phones and the Internet.

The World Bank's Information for Development (infoDev) program, nonetheless, believes such technology can combat dirty money.

InfoDev said in a paper that the Philippines' mobile phone remittance technologies "even help reduce fraud, money laundering and criminal acts...because the cash assets are no longer being carried around in person".

Aquino said the reason for the spotless money laundering record of overseas Filipinos is because of a threshold whenever a migrant remits through formal and informal or non-banking channels.

That threshold is for a one-time

Baseball

The Philippines, which was once part of a list of non-cooperating countries and territories, has been in an "anti-money laundering regime" Aquino claims.

He likens this regime to a "baseball field of dreams" where anti-money laundering enforcers and prosecutors are ready to spot laundered money flows and operators.

We have all the bases covered, he adds.

On the first base are the AMLC's special anti-money laundering investigators, while special prosecutors and state from the Department of Justice cover the second base through prosecuting money laundering cases and mutual legal assistance and extradition matters related to money laundering and terrorist financing.



The Anti-Money Laundering Council says that Filipino remitters have been compliant with money laundering regulations.

remittance activity, as Aquino observes migrant remitters send amounts way below the US\$10,000 threshold (say US\$1,000 or US\$2,000) monthly.

The know-your-customer (KYC) requirement is also strictly followed in remittance centers and banks overseas and in the Philippines. Money senders are required to verify their identity as well as the identity of the recipients.

Meanwhile, the Interpol (the world's largest international police organization), in a study of "ethnic banking systems" of 31 countries in Asia, cited it found neither direct nor indirect links between overseas workers' remittances and money laundering.

This is despite the study having discovered direct links between these banking systems and money flows from unlawful activities.

In the East Asian region, there are "unregulated remittance centers" in Hong Kong-China, Japan, and Korea that serve nationals such as Filipinos, the Interpol study said.

The third base is also covered, Aquino explains, by AML solicitors under the Office of the Solicitor General who help the AMLC in forfeiture and other remedial proceedings. And the home base is manned by special AML courts. Aquino's office is in the pitcher's plate, "manning such (Philippine) money laundering structure".

For received information on money laundering flows from overseas countries, Aquino says the Philippines is part of a worldwide network of 107 FIUs that have access to each others' financial intelligence information.

In AMLC's six-year report, while STRs commonly cover cases such as drug trafficking and illegal gambling, none were linked to human trafficking or human smuggling, of which Philippine victims involve transient women and children.

Comments are welcome at ofwjournalism@gmail.com and at editor@ofwjournalism.net.

Report: Low brain drain rate among Filipino college grads

By JEREMIAH M. OPINIANO
WWW.OFWJOURNALISM.NET

These countries, however, exclude Japan, Turkey, and the US.

Nearly 27 percent of these Filipinos are technicians, and 14.5 percent are professionals.

In OECD's data on the sectors of activity of immigrant workers, covering some 1.208 million Filipinos in 27 of 29 OECD countries (minus Germany and Japan), some 52.5 percent of them are in personal and social services; 17.4 percent in agriculture and industry; 16.8 percent are in distributive services; and 13.3 percent are in producer services.

For some 173,000 tertiary-educated Filipinos aged 15 and above, 40.1 percent of them are graduates of humanities and social sciences.

Meanwhile, some 30.6 percent of these tertiary-educated Filipinos have degrees in education and health, whereas another 26.1 percent are science and engineering graduates.

The OECD report presented profiles of what it calls "immigrant" populations in their member-countries, the report being a result of OECD's extensive immigration databases. The report also packaged information that lumped together data from all 29 countries, and in some select member-countries.

OECD even has data on populations coming from the top 50 origin countries of immigrants per OECD member-country.

Favored

Most of these OECD member-countries are favored destinations of Filipinos who Philippine government officials call permanent settlers or immigrants, pertaining to those who will live overseas for good.

Some OECD countries are destinations for temporary contract workers, such as Japan (overseas performing artists), Italy (domestic workers), United Kingdom (nurses), and Canada (caregivers).

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas's remittances data from the year 2000 to 2007 show that remittances coming from OECD members United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom total to some US\$48.542 billion.

This is 66.5 percent of the worldwide seven-year remittance total of US\$72.996 billion, with some US\$14.449 billion coming in last year.

The OECD report also said that Filipino nurses and doctors in OECD-member countries are among the highest in number, but the country's health emigration rate to these OECD member-countries is lower than African and Caribbean countries.

These countries stand out "as being disproportionately affected by the emigration of health professionals," the OECD wrote.

The OECD also wrote that the share of people with tertiary education is higher for the foreign-born (23.6 percent) than the native-born population (19.1 percent).

The emigration rate of tertiary immigrant women to these OECD-member countries is also higher than that of men with a similar level of education, OECD adds.

That emigration rate for immigrant women is some 13.9 percent, compared to the men, which is 9.7 percent.

Comments are welcome at ofwjournalism@gmail.com and at editor@ofwjournalism.net

Youngstyle

Actor Brendan Fraser on movies, books and a bird



Actor Brendan Fraser, left, is shown here with Josh Hutcherson, center, and Anita Briem in a scene from the new adventure flick, "Journey to the Center of the Earth."

By ELLEN MCCARTHY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Actor Brendan Fraser stars in a new adventure flick, "Journey to the Center of the Earth." You might remember Fraser from such movies as "Looney Tunes: Back in Action," "Dudley Do-Right" and "The Mummy." The new film is based on a book with the same name that has been considered a classic since it was first published — way back in 1864. (Think about that for your summer reading list!) This "Journey" has cool effects, but it's still about an uncle, his nephew and their guide finding themselves in a strange underground world.

Q. What would you be?
A. "Unemployed! No, but I don't know what else I would do. I'd be a person with a very sad face."

Q. What was the best part of making this movie?

A. "Going on location to Iceland. Incredibly, diverse terrain, remarkably remote. Visually stunning."

Q. What's your favorite part about this job?

A. "Being different people. Going different places and then appreciating your home even more, when you can come back to it."

Q. If you weren't an actor,

what would you be?

A. "It would've been authored by Roald Dahl. I really, really, really, really, really liked 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.' But I don't know if that was my favorite. ... I remember reading one called 'Danny the Champion of the World.' That was a collection of short stories that were very dark and creepy. And I loved 'Of Mice and Men.' I would read it every year."

Q. This movie is based on a book. What was your favorite book as a kid?

A. "I didn't know (the director) put it in there. ... They needed some of the chirps and some of the editorial comment that the bird would make. I was hacking on my own computer, sending him music files of me doing Glow Bird." And he used it in the movie!

Q. Is it true you also do the voice of Glow Bird, the animated bird that trails the trio through the underground world?

A. "You can hear Fraser do the voice of Glow Bird if you see the film or visit this Web site to play adventure games: www.racetothecenter.com.

You can hear Fraser do the voice of Glow Bird if you see the film or visit this Web site to play adventure games: www.racetothecenter.com.

BOOK REVIEW

'Rutka's Notebook'

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"Rutka's Notebook: A Voice From the Holocaust"

By Rutka Laskier
Ages 12 and older

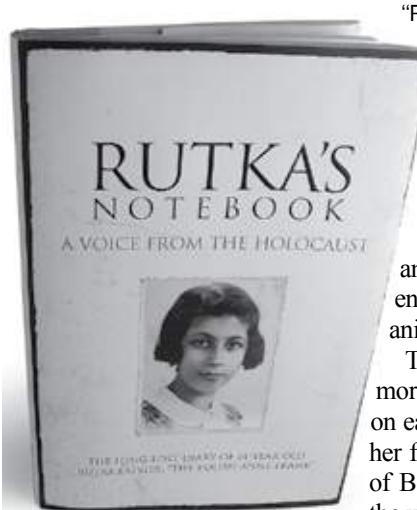
"The rope around us is getting tighter and tighter. ... In the summer it will be unbearable."

These words, written by a 14-year-old Polish girl in February 1943, proved prophetic. Along with her parents, younger brother and many other relatives, Rutka Laskier was among the millions of European Jews sent to labor and/or death camps during World

War II. Rutka's father survived. She and the rest of her family did not.

Telling their story is Rutka's diary, about 50 pages of fine, neat penmanship. The diary, salvaged and saved by a friend, came to public attention only a few years ago.

The writing details a three-month period in early 1943 that was a time of upheaval in Bedzin, a city of 55,000 Poles, about half of them Jewish. In a style reminiscent of the famous wartime diary of Anne Frank—in fact, Rutka is being called "The Anne Frank of Poland"—Rutka writes one minute about Nazi horrors she has seen or



heard about and the next minute about her girlfriends and her growing interest in boys.

Yet Rutka senses her fate. "I'm young," she writes, "and I haven't seen much in my life,

"Rutka's Notebook," by Rutka Laskier, tells the story of a girl known as the "Anne Frank of Poland."

THE WASHINGTON POST

and I'm already so indifferent ... I'm turning into an animal waiting to die."

The strong writing is made more powerful by the photos on each page, some of Rutka, her family and friends; others of Bedzin (before and during the war) and the nearby extermination camps.

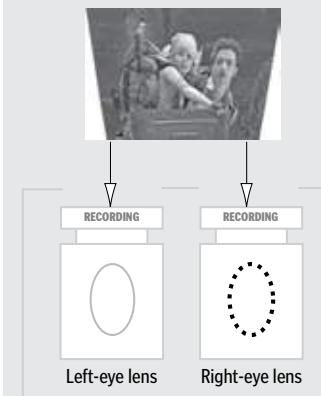
"Rutka's Notebook" adds another voice to a time that people still struggle to understand. It's a voice that will give mature young readers much to think about.

How 3-D works

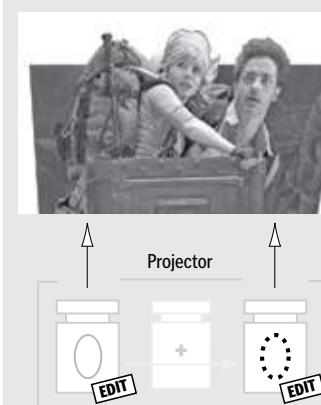
By ELLEN MCCARTHY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"Journey to the Center of the Earth," which will be in theaters Friday, is a 3-D movie. Now three-dimensional movies have been around for a long time; ask your parents or even your grandparents. Early 3-D movies always seemed a bit fuzzy and likely to give viewers a headache. But get ready to see a lot more 3-D at the movie theater. Because movies are projected digitally now, rather than on film, it's much easier to use the cool, in-your-face technology.

Director Eric Brevig has been interested in 3-D since he first saw it as a kid. We asked him to explain how it works and how he used it in "Journey."



STEP 1: "I'm using a specially built device that houses two camera lenses side by side—just the way your eyes are side by side—and they're each recording their own image. So we actually finish two complete movies. ... Every frame of film has a matching right-eye and left-eye picture."



STEP 2: "What we do is, we edit the movie in one eye and then when that's edited, we match up the other eye so that the two are perfectly matched up. And then we project (both) with two projectors, so that the whole thing is 3-D."



STEP 3: "When you go to the theater, (the movie) goes into a projector that has a special adapter that projects one image for one eye and another image for another eye. And you wear special glasses so that each eye sees only the proper movie. If you take the glasses off, you'll think it's blurry, but in fact you're seeing two images on the screen at the same time. They're not exactly superimposed; they're side by side." The glasses, he said, pull the images together in your head.

Join the Corps

Wonder what it would be like to live in a different country and help the people there?

That's what Peace Corps volunteers do. Since its start in 1961, the Peace Corps has sent nearly 200,000 volunteers to more than 125 countries to help people lead healthier, more productive lives.

You can get a taste for the Peace Corps life at a new Web site, www.peacecorps.gov/kids.

As a virtual volunteer, you'll be sent to a fictional village to help solve eight challenges facing the villagers, including malaria, water contamination and a lack of education for girls. The goal of the game, just like in the real Peace Corps, is to make a difference in people's lives and leave their village better off than when you arrived.

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BOOK REVIEW

About a boy's best friend

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"Old Yeller," By Fred Gipson

For ages 10 and up

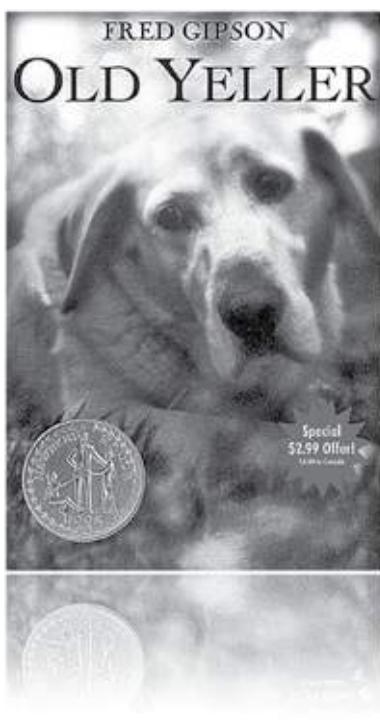
A classic almost from the moment it was written in 1956, "Old Yeller" is the story of a big stray dog that shows up one day at the Coates family's log cabin in the Texas Hill Country in the late 1860s.

Fourteen-year-old Travis names the scraggly mutt Old Yeller, partly because of his washed-out coloring and partly because of his odd way of yelping.

Travis hadn't wanted a dog—at least, not one who looked so worthless. But with his pa gone on a cattle drive and Travis having to watch over his mama and little brother, maybe having a dog around—even a meat-stealing, no-good cur like Old Yeller—isn't such a bad idea.

Little does he realize how much that dog will come to mean to him. From the novel's first page, when Travis alludes to the tragic ending that this boy-meets-dog story will have, you'll be hooked.

Gipson, who grew up on a Texas farm in the early 1900s, knows what he's writing about. As a newspaper reporter and, later, a novelist, he wrote many stories about the Texas frontier. He considered "Old Yeller" to be his finest work.



THE WASHINGTON POST
KidsPost summer book club selection "Old Yeller," by Fred Gipson, was a classic almost from the moment it was written in 1956.

By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

"Extra! Extra! Read all about it!" newsboys used to yell from street corners as they hawked the latest, fresh-off-the-press newspapers. We think "Read All About It" is a good slogan for our 2008 Summer Book Club, as well.

For the next 10 weeks, famous personalities will suggest that you read all about their favorite books and authors. Among our guests: actors Abigail Breslin and Tyler James Williams, authors Christopher Paul Curtis and R.L. Stine, and athletes Jason Campbell and Alana Beard.

Look for a new chapter in the KidsPost Book Club every Saturday through Aug. 27. Getting us started today is first lady Laura Bush.

■ ■ ■

Laura Bush is a former teacher and librarian, so you just know she loves books. Her office in the East Wing of the White House is filled with children's books (also paintings of Barney and Miss Beazley, the Bush family's Scottish terriers).

The first lady has shared her love of reading with children around the world. In 2001 she helped launch the first National Book Festival, patterned on a similar event she helped start in Texas when George Bush was governor. The 2007 National

Book Festival drew about 120,000 people to the national Mall in Washington.

The first lady recently wrote (with daughter Jenna) her first children's book. It is about a reluctant reader named Tyrone. Its title, coincidentally, is "Read All About It!"

Laura Bush sat down recently with KidsPost editor Marylou Tousignant to talk about books and her recommendation for one she thinks you will enjoy a lot.

Q: Why did you select "Old Yeller"?

A: "Because I loved it. I loved it as a book to read to students when I was a fourth-grade teacher, and I loved to read it myself. When my husband was governor ... I got to go to Mason, Texas, where Fred Gipson was from, and they installed on the public library grounds a sculpture of Travis and Old Yeller.

"And I love to read about dogs, and I think 'Old Yeller' is—obviously it's a dog story, but it's also a story of the frontier, it's a Western story—all ingredients that I like in books."

Q: Is part of the appeal that it's set in the Texas Hill Country?

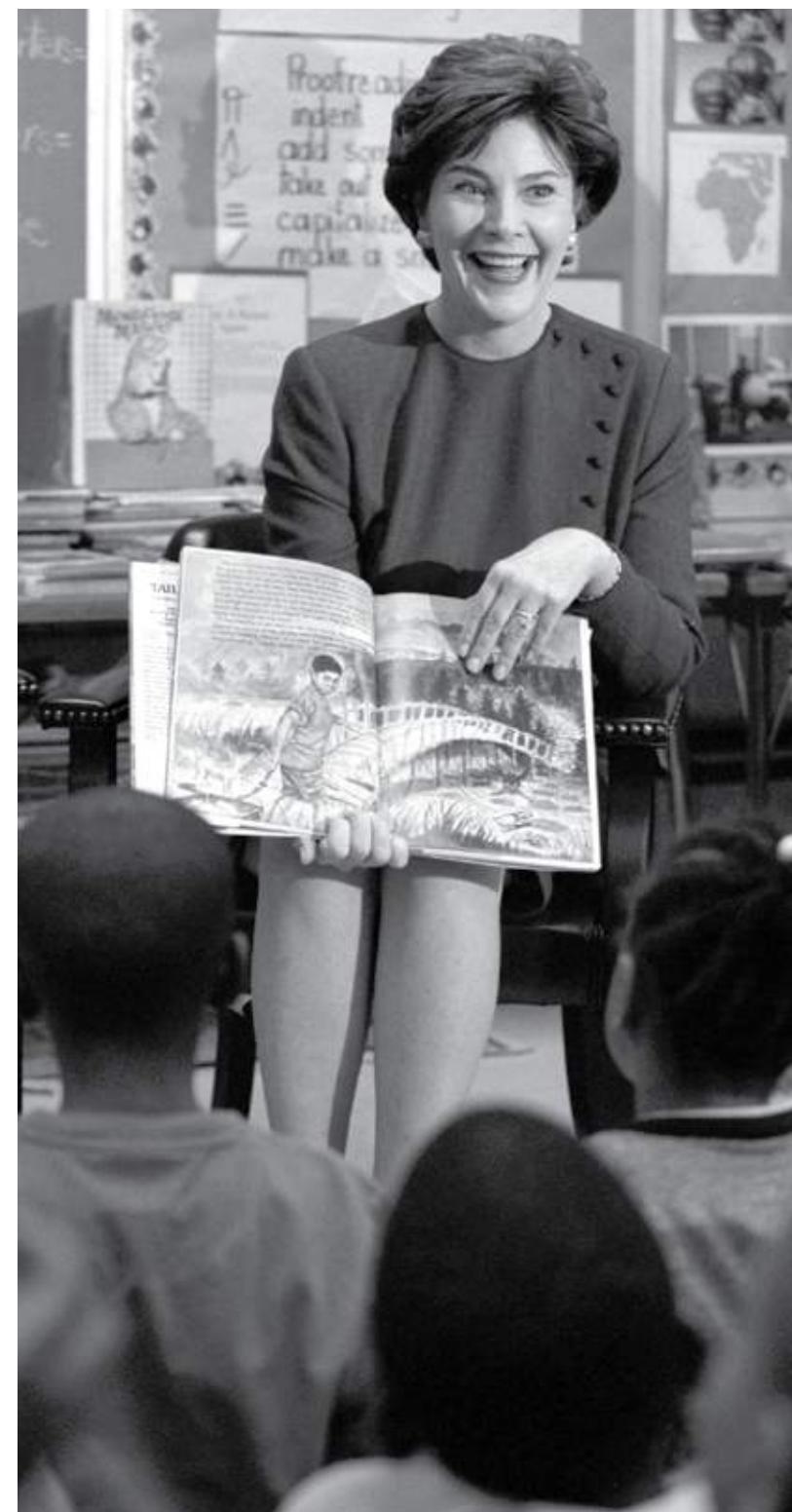
A: "Certainly ... It's a part of the country I know very well. It's a frontier story, just like the ... 'Little House on the Prairie' series, which is also a way for American children to learn about the frontier time in our country's history and what life was like then for children. And so, both of those reasons helped me pick 'Old Yeller.'"

Q: Is there a lesson here about moving on, as Travis' father tells him, when dealing with tragedy?

A: "Well, there is a life lesson ... but 'Old Yeller' is just basically a good dog story. I mean, it's a story about a dog that I think everybody who likes animals will like to read, even though the dog, of course, comes to a sad end, but in a very heroic way."

Q: Is it possible to read this book and not cry?

A: "No." (Laughter)

Q: Do you recall, did you

THE WASHINGTON POST
Laura Bush, in her first month as first lady, shares a book with students at Seaton Elementary School in Washington. Later in 2001, she helped launch the National Book Festival. Her selection for KidsPost's summer book club is "Old Yeller."

SCANNING THE SHELVES

Already read "Old Yeller"? That's possible because it's on many schools' reading lists. So why not try another Fred Gipson book?

"Hound-dog Man" tells the story of a 12-year-old boy who sets off on an adventure in search of the dog he's always wanted. And for "Old Yeller" fans, there are two sequels to enjoy: "Savage Sam" and "Little Arliss."

If you have trouble finding these titles, a good bookstore should be able to help.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

read this book with your daughters, as a family?

A: "I don't remember ... Barbara and Jenna and I are having a serious memory problem about what we read and when we read it. And, in fact, I recommend to your KidsPost readers to keep a list of books that you read. ... It will be, I think, really fun and interesting to go back and look at another time of your life."

Q: Do you do that?

A: "I don't now, but the president has been doing that. He's

been keeping a list of all the books that he's read over the last few years that he's lived here. But I wish I'd kept a list ...

"The other thing to tell KidsPost readers about the summer reading club is that your reading skills will really fall off if you don't read all summer."

"If you take a vacation from reading while you're taking your summer vacation, when you start school in the fall, you'll have to catch up again. So it's really important to fill your summer with reading."

First Death Anniversary

We, the family, invite our relatives & friends to join us for prayers and support as we celebrate the 1st Death Anniversary of our beloved Raymond Anthony S. Delos Santos

Daily Mass will be offered starting July 7 to July 15 at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Church.

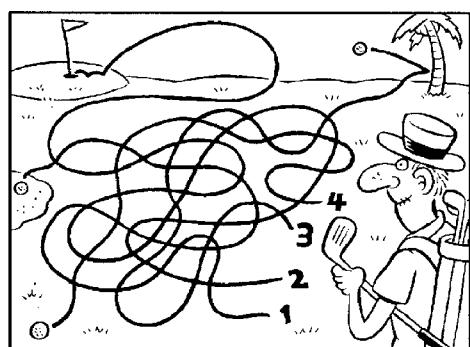
On the final day, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, Mass will be held at Saint Jude Church.

Dinner will be served at Delos Santos residence in Chalan Kanoa District III.

Please join us in prayers. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

Si Yu's Maase
Thank You
Salamat Po

From: Wife, Son and Family

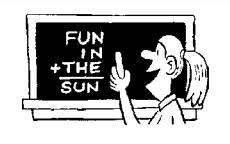


CAN YOU GUESS what iron — a 1, 2, 3 or 4 — Jock MacDivot should use to get a hole in one?

Answer: His trusty 2-iron will do the trick!

A VACATION PUZZLE! See if you can substitute the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 for the letters on the board so you will have a correct addition problem. The same digit is used for the same letter.

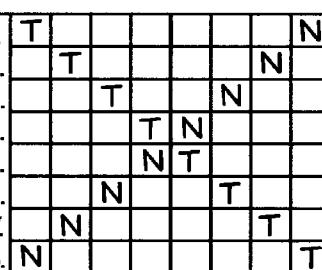
Answer: F=2, U=8, N=9, I=4, T=3, H=5, E=1, S=6, (289 + 49 + 351) = 689.



THE "H" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the H's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Symbol for hydrogen.
2. An expression of greeting.
3. Put out of sight.
4. Tough animal skin.
5. To scold mildly.
6. Moved very slowly.
7. A type of lightning.
8. A large Spanish estate.

Answers: 1. H (given). 2. Hide. 3. Hd. 4. Hide. 5. Chide. 6. Inchied. 7. Chained (zig-zag). 8. Hatched.



FIND THE BIG WORDS!

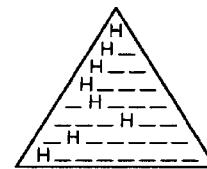
Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the answer.

DEFINITION:

1. A cooking measurer.
2. Foul water.
3. A vine around a post.
4. Owners of a business.
5. Sailors working songs.
6. What you do at the beach.
7. How they protect young chickens.
8. One who writes.

ANAGRAM:

soon + tape
ants + tang
need + twin
spar + tern
aces + hint
hunt + base
nice + tuba
tins + love



Answers: 1. Teaspoon. 2. Spaghetti. 3. Envelope. 4. Partners. 5. Charnelet. 6. Sunbather. 7. Inhabitable. 8. Novelist.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ Actress Sharon Stone, of "Basic Instinct" fame, is a member of Mensa, the most famous high-IQ society in the world.

■ It's been reported that when Mexican revolutionary Gen. Pancho Villa was assassinated in 1923, his final words were, "Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something."

■ In 2007, Americans mailed more than 2 billion postcards.

■ Ever wonder where the term "cocktail" for an alcoholic beverage came from? One possible explanation is that a barmaid was fed up with the plain, dull appearance of the tavern she worked in, so she decided to add some color by putting up roosters' tail feathers. Taking his cue from the decorations, one of the patrons asked for a cocktail, and the barmaid served him a drink with feathers in it.

■ If you happened to be in Los Angeles' Griffith Park on April 19 of this year, you probably ran across the Grilled Cheese Invitational, an annual event since 2003. Winners included sandwiches with such names as the Moon Unit, the Fresh Quez, Yo Mamma's Special, Cake and Mivens and the Short Rib and Taleggio Grilled Cheese w/ Apricot Caper Puree.

■ You've probably heard the word "zeitgeist" used to describe the spirit of a particular time. You may not realize, though, that the word, which comes from the German, translates directly as "time ghost."

■ The company that holds the most U.S. patents is, perhaps unsurprisingly, IBM. Following Big Blue on the list are Canon, HP, Panasonic, Samsung, Micron, Hitachi, Toshiba and Fujitsu.

MAGIC MAZE ● TRIBUTARIES OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

N R W O R C P M J G D A X V S
Q A H N S K U N K K I F D A X
A V I I A A C T Q S O M J H F
Y W T K L T S A E C A Y W U R
A D E R S L E N L P N L J H F
Z D D P B A I K A B Z X V T R
O Q O U P O K N O K G M K I H
O F D B M I S S O U R I Z Y W
V T R S Q G H H A I Q A B O N
L K E I H F I C D K S A C A Z
X D W K C O R B V U S R M Q O

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Arkansas	Crow	Maquoketa	Rock
Big Black	Des Moines	Missouri	White
Big Muddy	Illinois	Ohio	Yazoo
Chippewa	Kaskaskia	Red	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

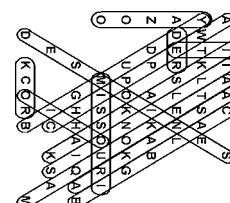
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	X		-		25
X		-	X		
	X		-		15
-		X		-	
	+		÷		1
31	20	21			

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

31	+	20	-	21	1
1	x	5	÷	6	1
-	x		-		
8	x	3	-	9	15
x	-	x			
4	x	7	-	3	25

TRIBUTARIES OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Balding Pigs Have Owners Stumped



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I own two potbellied pigs. They have a lot of hair loss. Last year Penny, age 5 years, lost most of hers. Now it's 2-year-old Norman's turn. I was told it could be from a poor diet, but these guys are like my kids. They eat good-quality stuff: top-grade hay and potbellied pig pellets. They hardly ever get junk food; instead, they get treats from our garden, like fresh cooked squash, carrots, beans, etc. They have a very nice barn with lots of straw and good hay. They have a choice of lying in dry dirt, on a mud spot or in a pool of fresh water.

I was told to put watered-down baby oil on them. This seems to make it worse. Can you help? — Diane and John O., on Little Moose Farm

DEAR DIANE AND JOHN: Since their diet is varied and well-rounded, it's probably not the cause of this periodic hair loss. Stress might be a factor — changes in season, extreme temperatures, pregnancy or any change in their routine can bring on sudden hair loss.

In the potbellied pig community, it's called "blowing their coats," a phenomenon when pigs lose most or all of their hair in a very short time. It seems to occur more often after a stressful event, but some potbellied pigs blow their coats ev-

ery year. The hair regrows over a period of months.

I would consult their veterinarian and bring them in for skin tests to rule out conditions like a parasitic infection. Depending on the results, the vet may prescribe medication, or recommend supplements to their diet like fish oil or vitamin E.

To make both pigs more comfortable, treat their hair and skin with Skin-So-Soft (made by both Avon and Heartland) and rub Norman's coat daily to encourage loose hairs to fall out faster.

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Library Card Pays Dividends All Summer

Donna's Day Creative family fun
by Donna Erickson

on Saturday morning? Prepare these family favorites with your young kids, and then wind down the day with classic picture-book titles such as "Strega Nona" by Tomie dePaola and "Pancakes, Pancakes!" by Eric Carle.

Play With Food Words
Enjoy word play around the dinner table. See how many expressions you can think of that use food themes, and

then talk about them. For example: "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," "Go bananas," "Sour grapes," "Bring home the bacon," "Icing on the cake," "That's the way the cookie crumbles," etc.

Grandparent Connection Tip: Share memories of a family recipe with your grandchild. WRITE a grocery list for the ingredients and shop for them together, then READ the directions aloud as you prepare the dish.

Extra tip: Keep a basket near your door to corral library books and to store your library cards.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Thought for the Day: "If once a man indulges himself in murder, very soon he comes to think little of robbing; and from robbing he next comes to drinking and Sabbath-breaking, and from that to incivility and procrastination." — Thomas De Quincey

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Life & Style

Christie Brinkley settles NY divorce case

CENTRAL ISLIP, N.Y. (AP)

—Christie Brinkley's fiercely combative divorce trial ended Thursday following a week of salacious testimony about her fourth husband's affair with a teenager and his Internet porn proclivities.

The settlement gives her custody of their two children and some property. The husband, Peter Cook, gets \$2.1 million.

"I'm really glad that today we found some peace," said Brinkley, beaming as her silver peace-sign earrings glinted off a galaxy of camera

flashes. She clutched her son's elaborate dinosaur diorama, used as trial evidence that she's a good mother who helped him with his science project.

She told reporters that while she was happy with the settlement, there was not much to celebrate.

"It's to me a very bittersweet moment because it really is the death of a marriage," said Brinkley, 54, who has three other ex-husbands.

Signs of an accord emerged Wednesday when testimony was repeatedly interrupted so attorneys could confer among themselves and with the judge.

After an all-night negotiating session at a nearby hotel, the parties reached an agreement about 6:15 a.m. Thursday, said Brinkley's lawyer, Robert Stephan Cohen.

He declined to identify the catalyst for consensus. But on



Brinkley

Tuesday, a court-appointed psychiatrist said he thought Brinkley should be granted custody of the couple's 10-year-old daughter, Sailor, and 13-year-old son, Jack, whom Cook adopted; his biological father was Brinkley's third husband.

The psychiatrist's testimony followed one embarrassing revelation after another for Cook, while Brinkley largely came across as a caring mother.

"I think it was pretty clear where this case was going and so it got resolved," said Brinkley's lawyer.

Downey does Sherlock with Holmes mystery

said Thursday.

That should put it ahead of the schedule for a "Sherlock Holmes" comedy in development at Sony, which will star Sacha Baron Cohen as the detective and Will Ferrell as his partner, Dr. Watson.

No other cast members have been announced for Downey's film, which will be set in Holmes' late 19th-century London. The producers include Joel Silver and his producing partner—Downey's wife, Susan Downey—who previously worked with the actor on "Gothika" and "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang."



AP
In this April 30, 2008, file photo, Robert Downey Jr. arrives for the premiere of "Iron Man" in Los Angeles.

Called to Eternal Life Ana Songao Hocog

July 13, 1932 – July 6, 2008

Our Heavenly Father welcomed Ana to her eternal life on Sunday, July 6, 2008 at the age of 76 years at Guam Memorial Hospital. Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m. at Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica (Guam), Blessed Diego San Vitores Church (Guam), Saint Jude Church (Saipan), and San Isidro Church at 7:00 p.m. (Rota).

At the eternal gates of our Heavenly Father, Ana now joins her parents: Pedro Maratita Hocog and Ecolastica Songsong Songao and her brothers/sister/brothers-in-law: Ignacio Songao Hocog, Domingo Quintanilla, Rosa Hocog Indalecio, Lucio Masga Manglona and David Aldan Indalecio, and also her nieces and nephews: Edward Hocog, Sabina Manglona Taisacan, Luis Hocog Manglona, Raymond H. Manglona and Lilly A. Hocog.

Ana's compassion and her wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her children, their spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren: Dr. Rita Hocog Inos & Cristobal Inos (Denise Lorraine Hocog Inos, Elisabeth Inos Gardner, Ana Blossom Hocog Inos), Senator Paterno Hocog & Elizabeth Mendiola (Aginette Sasakura Mendiola-Bamba & John Anthony Bamba, Joshua Alfred Mendiola-Bamba, John Anthony Mundo-Bamba Jr, Carrie Lynn Ayuyu Hocog & Vito Mesngon Ulloa Jr, Andrei Mendiola & Elinor Amon, Eleneca Dee Amon Mendiola, Paterno Jose Ayuyu Hocog, Patty Beth Mendiola Hocog, Paterno Songao Hocog Jr.), Manuel Hocog, Pedro Hocog & Elizabeth Barcina (Abel Barcina Hocog, Flavian Barcina Hocog, Lucille Barcina Hocog, Peter Anthony Barcina Hocog), Angel Hocog, Elizabeth Hocog Apatang & Joseph Apatang (Jolynn Hocog Apatang), and Edward Hocog & Ruby Hocog (Edward Jr. Manglona Hocog, Domingo Manglona Hocog, Takara Mendiola Santos, Angieanna Manglona Hocog, Esco Ann Dela Cruz Hocog, Kiana Dela Cruz Hocog), and her aide, Moji.

Ana is additionally survived by her sister, Milagro H. Manglona and her children: Lydia M. Esatacio, Francisco Manglona, Yvonne Manglona, Trisha Hocog and sister-in-law Dolores Borja Hocog and her children: Alice Atalig, Janet Hocog Ogo & Pedro Ogo, Congressman Victor Borja Hocog & Villia Mendiola Hocog, Lydia Hocog Aldan & Jose Benavente Aldan, Dr. Paterno (Loreto) Hocog & Matilde Castro Hocog, Vianney Borja Hocog & Angie Atalig Hocog and her nieces and nephews: Martina Indalecio Bio & Raymond Bio, Carmen Indalecio Ayuyu & Rick Capili, Pedro Hocog Indalecio & Maria Castro Indalecio, William Hocog Indalecio & Josephine Sablan Indalecio, Anthony Hocog Indalecio & Wimcy Orat, and Maria Indalecio Banca & Mario Banca.

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends will also miss her.

Viewing will be held at Adas Funeral Home in Sinajana, Guam on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Last respects for Ana will be held at San Francisco de Borja Church (Rota) on Monday, July 14, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. followed by mass of Christian burial at San Antonio San Jose Cemetery in Songsong Village (Rota).

Si Yuus Ma'aase ginan I famagu'oña yan I familan Maratita, Songao, Hocog yan Inos.

Spike Lee takes Jackson to task for Obama comments

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.

(AP)—Spike Lee says the Rev. Jesse Jackson's crudely phrased criticism of Barack Obama won't affect the Democrat's campaign, which the filmmaker expects to succeed at bringing "seismic" change to the world.

"I don't think his (Jackson's) comments help anybody. It's just unfortunate," Lee said after taking part in a Television Critics Association panel.

Lee predicted Obama would be elected in November.

"When that happens, it will change everything. ... You'll have to measure time by 'Before Obama' and 'After Obama,'" Lee said during the panel. "It's an exciting time to be alive now."

The presidency of the first African-American will ripple

throughout arts, sports and more, said Lee, whose films include "Malcolm X" and "Do the Right Thing."

"Everything's going to be affected by this seismic change in the universe," he said.

Lee attended the TV group's annual summer session to discuss documentaries he's making for ESPN Films, including one about Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jackson's comment about Obama came last Sunday during a break in Jackson's appearance on Fox News' "Fox & Friends." Unaware his microphone was on, Jackson told a fellow guest that Obama was "talking down" to blacks in speeches on morality at black churches; he also used a slang reference for wanting to sever Obama's testicles.

Lennon 'Peace' lyrics sell for \$833,654

Judy Davis awarded \$134,000 in damages

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Judy Davis was awarded \$134,000 in damages Friday from a newspaper that ridiculed her as heartless for opposing a plan to erect floodlights in a park near the actress' harborside home in Sydney.

New South Wales state Supreme Court Judge Peter McClellan ruled that February 2006 articles in The Daily Telegraph had hurt the two-time Oscar nominee's reputation and personal standing in the community by implying she was selfish and unreasonable.

Davis did not immediately comment.

Printing that Davis "was a heartless person in being indifferent to the risk of injury to hundreds of children, would inevitably diminish her reputation in the eyes of many people," McClellan

said in his judgment.

Davis, 53, had sued the Telegraph's publisher Nationwide News Pty. Ltd., for articles about her behavior at a local council meeting. The newspaper said she stormed out of a council meeting where the plan was being discussed after an argument with council officials.

Davis had opposed a council plan to install floodlights at a children's football training park, citing possible danger to residents from misfired shots.

Nationwide News, part of media mogul Rupert Murdoch's global business empire, did not immediately indicate if it would appeal the award.

Davis, who has won Golden Globe and Emmy awards for film and television work, was nominated for an Academy Award for her role as Adela Quested in David Lean's 1984 film "A Passage to India."

LONDON (AP)—Christie's auction house has sold John Lennon's handwritten lyrics to "Give Peace a Chance" for \$833,654.

The lyrics were written during Lennon's 1969 Bed-in protest for peace at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal.

Christie's spokeswoman Zoe Schoon said Lennon gave the sheet to 16-year-old Gail Renard during the eight-day Bed-in.

Lennon wrote the lyrics and recorded the song in the hotel room with about 50 guests, who included singer Petula Clark and beat poet Allen Ginsberg.



AP
Writer Gail Renard, right, poses for the photographer, in front of the handwritten lyrics for the song 'Give Peace A Chance' song, that was sold in a Christie's auction for 350,000 British pounds, \$692,000, in London, Thursday July 10, 2008.

Jackie Chan museum planned in Shanghai

HONG KONG (AP)—Jackie Chan's Web site says construction has begun on a museum for the action movie star in the Chinese financial capital Shanghai.

A statement published Friday says the 54-year-old attended a ceremony marking the start of work earlier this week.

The museum will house props and costumes from Chan's movies, photos and other memorabilia, the Web site said. Construction is scheduled to finish in October 2009.



Chan

'Ethan Hawke marries girlfriend'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ethan Hawke has married girlfriend Ryan Shawhughes, the actor's publicist said Thursday.

The couple, who are expecting a baby, were married last month in New York City, Mara Buxbaum said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

"No further details are available," Buxbaum said.

Hawke, 37, has two children from his marriage to Uma Thurman.

His screen credits include "Training Day," "Dead Poets Society," "Great Expectations" and "Before Sunset."

Dad who dated on the rebound should try to catch her again

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I went through a bitter divorce a few years ago after my wife, "Cassie," had an affair. During the divorce I confided a lot in Cassie's sister, "Lisa." We had always been close friends, but one thing led to another.

I started seeing a lot of Lisa, and some people got wind of it. Lisa has two kids and I have a son who is older. I was very much in love with Lisa and she felt the same, but everyone said it was wrong so we parted ways. It was more my idea than hers. She didn't care what anyone thought.

Lisa and I are now involved with other people, but I talked to her a month ago and now I can't get her out of my mind. I told my son about it. He thinks I should be with her. He wants us to be happy. I have dated several other women, but none of them makes me feel the way she does. What do you think we should do?

UNDECIDED IN DELAWARE

DEAR UNDECIDED: Who, exactly, are these "people" whom you have allowed to dictate the way you live your life? It's time to stop being an advice collector.

Because you and Lisa are involved with others, the first thing you'll have to do is explain to them that you have "unfinished business." Better they hear it now than after they have invested more time in either of you. Also, understand that nothing comes without a price, and the "price" for a life together could be a permanent estrangement between Lisa and her sister.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have a "blended family." He has a 13-year-old son named "Ryan." I have a 5-year-old son, "James." And we have a daughter together, "Samantha," who is 2.

James and Ryan got along great before Sami was born. But now Ryan treats James like a stepchild. He constantly yells at James and says things like, "Just wait until Sami is big enough to beat you up!"

What I see going on between James and Sami is typical childhood rivalry, and I take it with a grain of salt. I have urged my boyfriend many times to talk to Ryan and tell him James is only 5 and doesn't fully understand when he takes toys from Sami, and for Ryan to stay out of it. I have also tried to tell that to Ryan.

I don't want my son to feel like the stepchild he is being treated like. Some advice would be greatly appreciated.

GOT THE BLUES IN MICHIGAN

DEAR GOT THE BLUES: There is a lot going on under your roof, and you should take none of it "with a grain of salt." Ryan may be treating your son like a stepchild because that is how he perceives him—after all, Ryan is related by blood to Samantha and not to James. He should not be allowed to get away with it.

Also, when Sami was born, James was the baby in the family. He could be resentful about losing his place and be trying to punish Sami by taking her toys. At age 5, your son knows the difference between right and wrong, and you should not ignore that fact. Tell James that unless he wants both his big brother and his little sister to be mad at him, he will have to learn to look out for Sami and treat her like a loving brother.

Also, be sure to carve out some extra time devoted just to James, so he will know he hasn't been "lost in the middle." Praise him when he's good to Samantha and let him know there's a penalty when he isn't. Do this, and I predict the problem will subside.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



In this April 7, 2008 file photo, Australian singer Olivia Newton-John and John Easterling pose for photograph at the Great Wall of China in Jinshanling, China.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson



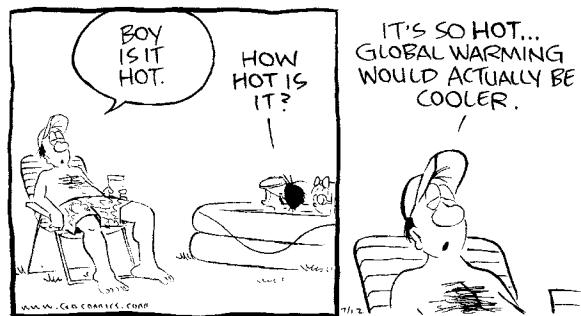
Garfield®



By Jim Davis



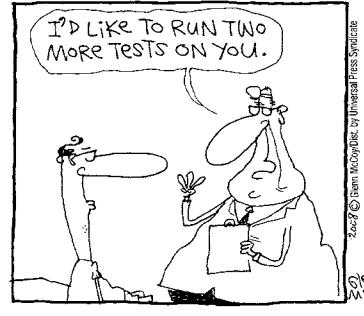
Adam@home



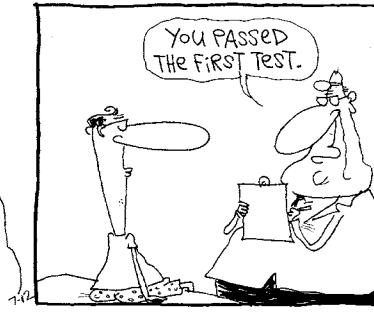
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

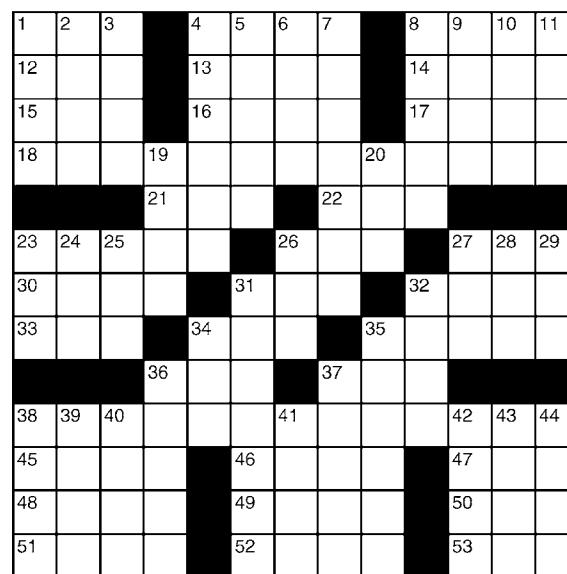


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35	A couple of sizes too big	53	CSA soldier	19	Inauguration recitation
1	TVA structure	36 Wrigley product	20	Levy	23	Street address?
4	Mountain- eer's challenge	37 Frat party need	24	Melody	25	Bar supply
8	"Pretty Woman" actor	38 Make people look twice	26	Lad	27	Newton ingredient
12	Dander	45 Draftable	28	Early bird?	29	"Explain yourself!"
13	Stromboli spillage	46 Tarzan's transport	31	Tea urn	32	Wise one
14	Teeny bit	47 Make marginalia	34	Clear the tables	35	Command
15	Witness	48 Name above the title	36	Growls	37	Japanese form of fencing
16	The gamut	49 Uses an abacus	38	Pitch	39	"Do — others ..."
17	Hum- dinger	50 Carte lead-in	40	Harvest	41	Calf-length
18	Whip of a sort	51 Bribes	42	Open a bit	43	Money received from the state
21	Way back when	52 Laugh-a-minute	44	Impale		
22	—relief					
23	Puts cheese in the mouse-trap					
26	Carton					
27	A mere handful					
30	Opulent					
31	"Mayday!"					
32	Woeful breath					
33	Mined-over matter					
34	Inlet					

Yesterday's answer 7-12

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erik Per Sullivan, 17; Topher Grace, 30; Lisa Nicole Carson, 39; Bill Cosby, 71

Happy Birthday: A change of scenery will do you a world of good this year. Don't hesitate to plan an exotic trip or a move. You will thrive on the surroundings you create and the interesting people you meet. Your business and personal partnerships will grow in a positive and progressive manner. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 31, 36, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your worries aside and have fun. Challenge yourself to something that requires strength and endurance and you will build confidence. Don't let anyone take you for granted. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use discretion regarding your relationships. An emotional issue will surface if you get involved with someone you shouldn't. Avoid temptation or anyone trying to entice you to do something you shouldn't. **★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's time to lay your cards on the table, to put your heart on the line and to find out who is actually on your side. Don't be fooled by someone who brags or makes promises that sound too good to be true. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be secretive about your plans until you have everything ironed out in your own mind. After that, emotional talks will turn in your favor. Once you let others know where they stand, you can discover where you fit into the picture. **★★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Quick decisions or plans will backfire, leaving you short of cash. Deception is apparent so don't believe everything you hear or give in to anyone trying to pressure you to give a hasty answer to something questionable. **★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): No matter how you slice it, you can only do so much. Don't go overboard if a money

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be fooled by a fast talking salesperson or someone who wants you to lend or give them something. Contractors or making changes to your residence will cost more than anticipated. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. **★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone is probably hiding something from you. This may leave you in a vulnerable position, making a decision impossible. Proceed with caution -- if you don't know, don't go. Protect your interests. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Traveling back in time will bring emotional issues that must be dealt with to the surface.

Meeting an old friend or hearing about someone from your past will leave you unsettled. However, it will also help you get to the bottom of something that has been bothering you. **★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may want to make home improvements but, in the process, don't let anyone talk you into something you don't need. Someone may pressure you into unnecessary work or you may be blamed for an existing problem that you are forced to fix. **★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's time to lay your cards on the table, to put your heart on the line and to find out who is actually on your side. Don't be fooled by someone who brags or makes promises that sound too good to be true. **★★**

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COURTESY 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

deal is presented to you, especially if it will leave you short of cash. Be conservative. You can play a much more powerful role if you back away. **★★★**

ACQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You don't want to have to backtrack to get yourself out of trouble. Emotions will escalate if you have not been telling the whole truth. Don't lie but don't give out too much information if it will incriminate you. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Think about the future and the person you want to be with. Talks will help you decipher if this person is on the same page as you. Negotiations and talks will iron out any existing problems. **★★★★**

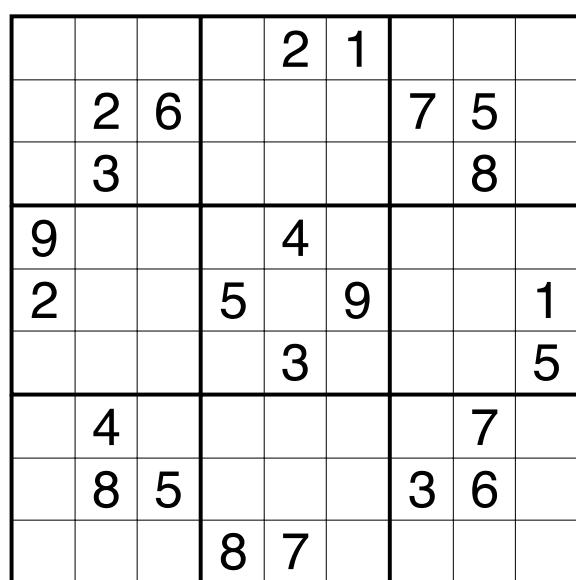
Birthday Baby: You are creative, earnest, thoughtful and willing to try new things. You have an excellent memory and an interesting way of describing things. You are popular, sensitive and intense.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

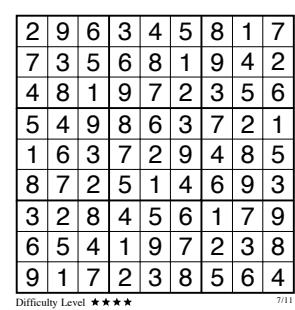
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

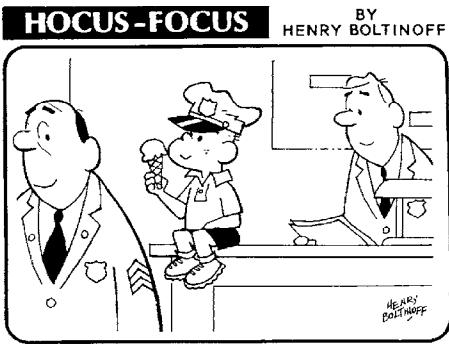
STUDYING FOR THE BAR EXAM

Solution: 6 letters

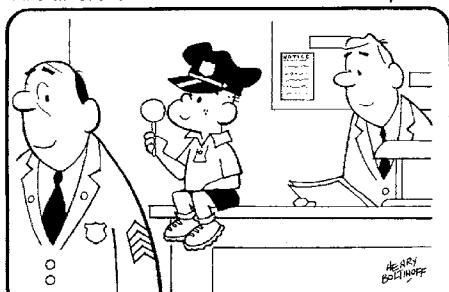
C	G	S	E	L	S	L	C	G	N	I	T	I	R	W
S	O	L	I	C	I	T	O	R	E	E	R	G	E	D
S	V	N	E	S	N	B	R	S	I	E	D	I	A	L
S	E	E	S	A	Y	E	R	A	S	M	V	A	D	A
E	R	T	R	T	L	D	A	T	E	I	R	R	O	
C	N	Q	O	A	I	N	A	I	R	E	R	N	E	G
O	M	U	P	N	P	T	P	N	V	Y	G	T	A	S
R	E	R	A	C	E	U	G	A	E	G	I	S	L	
P	N	S	A	N	A	A	R	T	N	U	T	S	E	T
R	T	T	C	O	L	C	S	P	I	A	E	W	S	
O	R	I	T	I	L	H	U	D	Y	O	S	T	B	
B	U	O	I	T	E	L	E	G	A	L	N	S	E	
L	O	N	C	O	D	S	E	L	U	R	U	A	A	
E	C	S	E	M	E	S	T	R	R	Y	L	P		
M	A	T	E	R	I	A	L	Y	T	L	U	C	A	

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Analysis, Called, Career, Constitutional, Court, Criminal, Degree, Essay, Evidence, Faculty, Goal, Government, Grade, Guides, Jobs, Learn, Legal, Library, Material, Motion, Notes, Passing, Practice, Prepare, Problem, Process, Pursue, Questions, Read, Review, Rules, Semester, Serve, Solicitor, Strategies, Stress, Teach, Test, Trusts, Writing
Yesterday's Answer: Health
We listened to your request! TREASURE is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20x20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$12.25 p/h (\$112 total each). U.S. funds only for the first volume, \$1.50 p/h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 9668. Order online at [upsp.com](http://www.upsp.com).

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's hat is black. 2. Notice added to bulletins board. 3. Officer has two buttons. 4. Officer has four stripes. 5. Officer is holding a lottery ticket. 6. Desks for sergeants badge is missing.

Wishing Well®

8	4	3	8	5	6	7	3	2	7	3	2	4
R	H	H	E	S	A	G	I	I	G	M	A	
5	2	8	6	3	2	3	2	5	4	2	8	5
T	P	W	T	H	O	E	R	A	N	T	A	
8	7	3	5	6	5	7	3	8	3	6	7	6
R	V	R	T	E	N	E	V	D	A	L	F	
7	5	7	4	8	7	8	2	4	3	8	3	
R	E	E	G	S	E	A	L	A	I	L	R	
8	3	6	5	4	6	3	5	2	6	5	4	7
E	E	P	W	N	H	S	P	N	O	R	T	
6	4	2	4	6	8	5	4	6	8	5	8	5
N	H	T	E	E	G	O	R	C	I	J	V	
4	8	5	2	8	2	6	5	6	2	6	5	2
E	E	C	M	N	A	A	T	L	I	L	S	

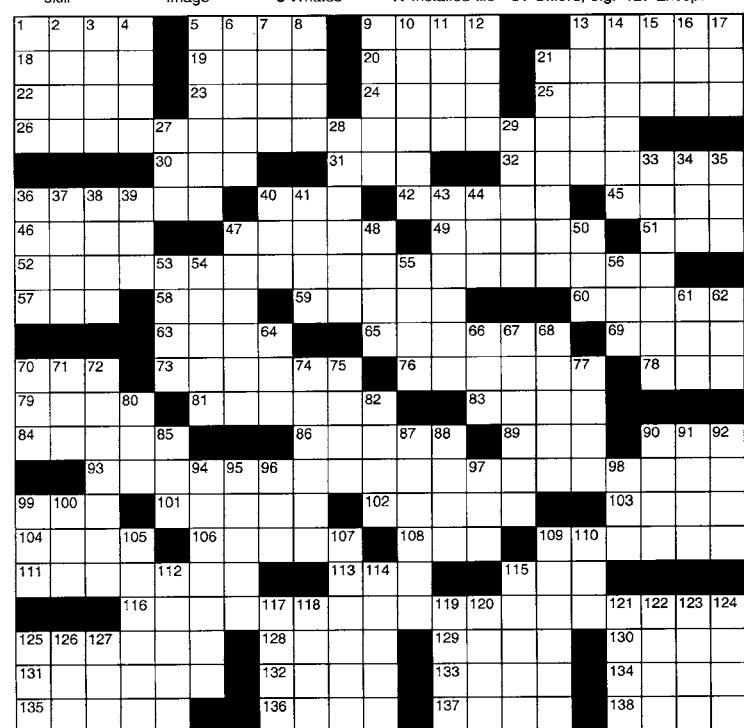
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword GIFT RAP

ACROSS

- 1 Forum wear
- 5 Wolf gang?
- 9 Drive the getaway car
- 13 Positive thinker
- 18 Lipinski leap
- 19 Deejay Freed
- 20 Interoffice communique
- 21 Hickman or Strawberry
- 22 Canadian coin
- 23 Ordinary
- 24 "Trinity" author
- 25 Kind of paint
- 26 Start of a remark by Don Marquis
- 30 Narcs' org.
- 31 "Agnes —"
- 32 Cinema sled
- 36 Lineman's tool
- 40 Seville shout
- 42 Renown
- 45 Debut recording
- 47 Discontinue
- 49 Sharpens a skill
- 51 Choose, with "for"
- 52 Part 2 of remark
- 53 Cartoon canine
- 58 Part 3 of remark
- 59 Delany and Wynter
- 60 Time of your life
- 63 Head line?
- 65 Susann or Shakespeare
- 69 Entreaty
- 70 Mrs. Eddie Cantor
- 73 Prom date
- 76 Gulliver's first name
- 78 Portly
- 79 Wattie's partner
- 81 Speculation
- 83 Conductor Klemperer
- 84 Gold brick?
- 86 Pageant prop
- 89 Part 4 of remark
- 90 Sixth sense
- 93 Part 5 of remark
- 98 Mellow
- 101 Studio sign
- 103 Computer image
- 104 Man the bar
- 106 Belarussian city
- 108 Cote cutie
- 109 Bantered
- 111 November
- 116 End of remark
- 118 Stirrup site
- 120 Create a chemise
- 124 Neighbor of Can.
- 125 Monastery bigwigs
- 128 Tivoli's Villa d'
- 129 Neighbor of Can.
- 130 Concept
- 131 He had things done by Friday
- 132 — breve
- 133 Unusual
- 134 It's nothing
- 135 Off the plate
- 136 Basketball's Willis
- 137 Black
- 138 Seth's son
- 14 Cleared the slate
- 15 Cardigan part
- 16 Pipe cleaner?
- 17 Building wing
- 21 Signifies
- 27 HST's predecessor
- 28 Crusader kingdom
- 29 Persian, presently
- 33 Early epic
- 34 Ref
- 35 Speck
- 36 Talk-show pioneer
- 37 Mechanic's offering
- 38 Pressing need
- 39 — de Cologne
- 40 Above, to Arnold
- 41 Installed tile
- 6 Maui greeting
- 7 Poirot's concern
- 8 Handle
- 9 Tickle
- 10 Wodehouse's Wooster
- 11 Send out
- 12 Peter of reggae
- 13 Dieter's discomfort
- 14 Cleared the slate
- 15 Cardigan part
- 16 Pipe cleaner?
- 17 Building wing
- 21 Signifies
- 27 HST's predecessor
- 28 Crusader kingdom
- 29 Persian, presently
- 33 Early epic
- 34 Ref
- 35 Speck
- 36 Talk-show pioneer
- 37 Mechanic's offering
- 38 Pressing need
- 39 — de Cologne
- 40 Above, to Arnold
- 41 Installed tile
- 43 Unsullied
- 44 — Gatos, CA
- 47 Basilica
- 48 Italian rumbler
- 50 Diffident
- 53 Kind
- 54 Use a toboggan
- 55 Handle harshly
- 56 "Alley —"
- 61 Indian export
- 62 Toque or topee
- 64 Piggy
- 66 Medical grp.
- 67 Uproar
- 68 Price twice
- 70 Infamous
- 71 Singer Seals
- 72 Enhance
- 74 Generator parts
- 75 Stumble
- 77 Isolated
- 80 Tropical snake
- 82 Connecticut campus
- 85 Spinks stat
- 87 Go back
- 88 — Good Men" (92 film)
- 90 Decorate glass
- 91 Oxford, e.g. 127 Except



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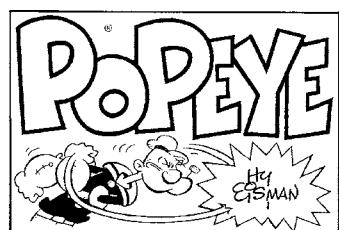
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What part of South America's mainland is still under control of France?
2. SCIENCE: Who coined the phrase "survival of the fittest"?
3. LANGUAGE: What is an elixir?
4. ART: Who painted "The Judgment of Paris"?
5. ENTERTAINERS: Who did Fred Astaire marry in 1980?
6. HISTORY: How long did The Hundred Years' War between England and France last?
7. ADVERTISING SLOGANS: What product has been advertised as "the San Francisco treat"?
8. LITERATURE: What was the real name of the British author who penned "Animal Farm" under the name George Orwell?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who was known as "The Singing Cowboy"?
10. TELEVISION: What was the name of the company where George Jetson worked in "The Jetsons"?

10. Space Space Space
9. Gene Autry
8. Elmer Blairst
7. Price Arthur
6. 116 Years
5. Jockey Ruby Smith
4. Peter Paul Rubens
3. Herbet Spencer, English philosopher
2. French Glineau
1. French Glineau
ANSWERS

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Saturday's Answers



Amber Waves



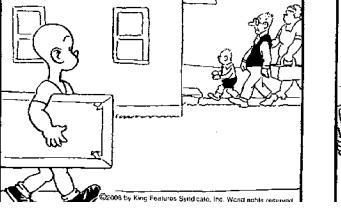
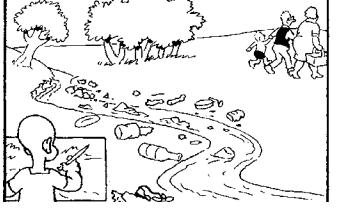
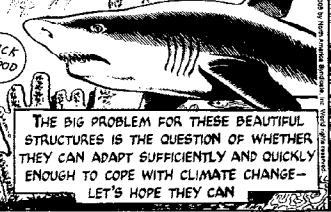
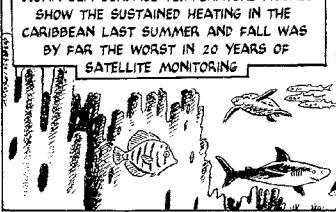
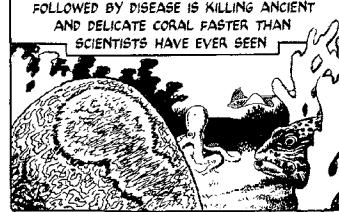
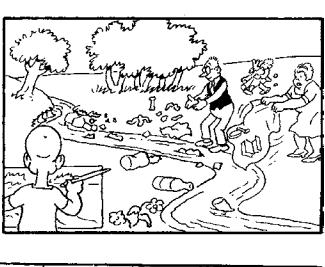
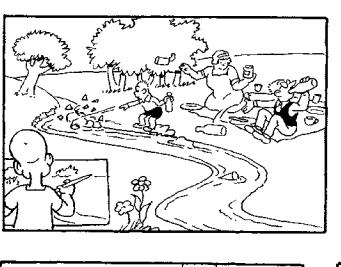
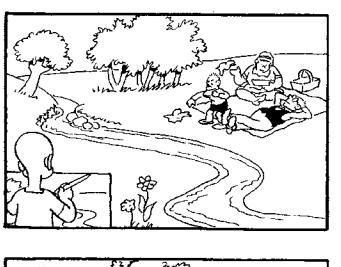
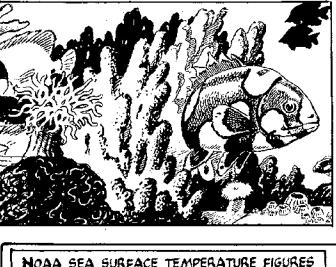
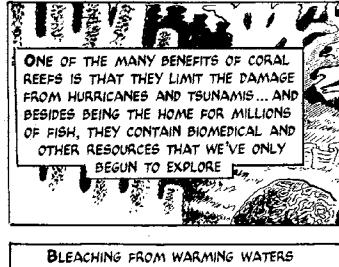
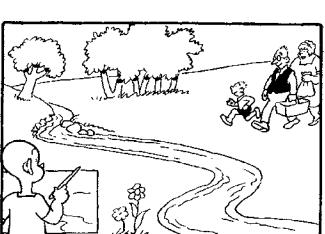
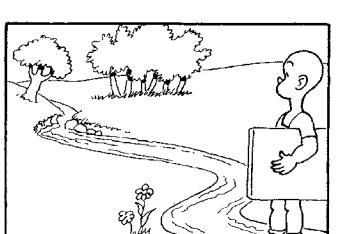
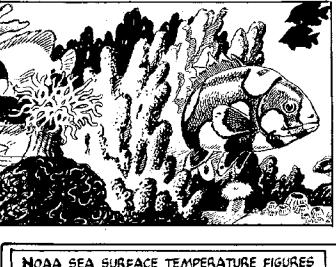
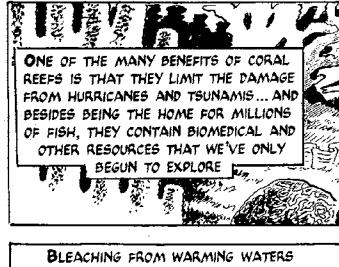
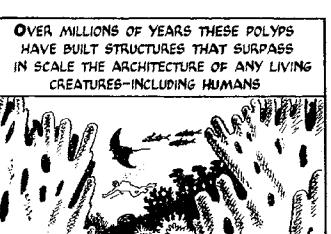
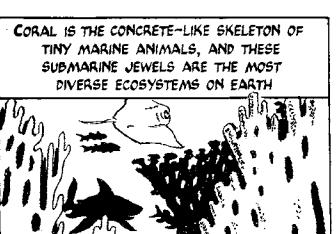
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by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution:
Up for grabs

Subscribe to *CNMI's First Daily Newspaper*



235-NEWS

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water \$210/month,
near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

Navy Hill Apartments for rent: Spacious 2-bedroom units with beautiful view of Saipan. Featuring a private view balcony, fully furnished, FREE wireless DSL, 24-hour water, night-time security, typhoon shutters, laundry area, on-call maintenance staff & BACK-UP GENERATOR. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

2 Commercial Space for Rent.
One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft.
Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Please call the First Floral Shop
at 483-7482
for more inquiries

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...



5-LINER AD
\$35

5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO
\$55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at 235-2769
for more details.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Davis back in hometown, joins Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Baron Davis flashed his sparkling sense of humor often on his return to Los Angeles. He'll probably need it since he's going to be playing for the Clippers.

Arriving on the heels of the departure of Elton Brand and Corey Maggette, Davis will be involved in a rebuilding period for the perennially woeful Clippers.

General manager Elgin Baylor introduced Davis at news conference on Thursday by saying he would make his remarks brief so Davis could say hello.

Davis stepped to the podium and said, "Hello." Then he paused for a few moments, as if that was all he was going to say, before chuckling and breaking into a broad grin.

Later, he talked about his friend Brand and their phone conversations after Davis decided to leave the Golden State Warriors to play for his hometown team. Brand finally bolted to Philadelphia, signing with the 76ers on Wednesday.

Asked when he last spoke to Brand, Davis said it was yesterday, laughing and adding, "I can't tell you what I said to him."

Brand, who has averaged around 20 points and 10 rebounds a game, was expected to remain with Los Angeles, but he took a five-year deal for a reported \$82 million in Philadelphia. Corey Maggette, Los Angeles' leading scorer last season, essentially swapped places with Davis, signing a 5-year deal with the Warriors for approximately \$50 million.

When Davis decided last week that he was going to join the Clippers, he believed Brand was going to be his teammate, but Davis insists he's gotten over any disappointment that they won't be playing together.



Baron Davis poses with his new jersey at a news conference to announce his signing to a multi-year contract with the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team in Los Angeles, Thursday, July 10, 2008.

"I'm signed, sealed and delivered, so I'm not disappointed at all," he said. "And he's signed and he's committed."

Davis had tried to sway Brand's decision.

"I talked to him, would tell him, 'Hey, this is the best place for you, we can do great things.' But obviously he chose otherwise," Davis said.

"It didn't really matter, once I made my mind up. I'm a man of my word," Davis said. "I committed to the Clippers and they committed to me."

Team president Andy Roeser said the past few days have been tumultuous for the Clippers, but

in L.A. It's my turn and a chance for the young guys to step up. Get a couple more free agents and we'll be ready to go."

Davis said he didn't consider backing out of his deal (five years, \$65 million) with the Clippers because Brand wasn't going to be around.

"It didn't really matter, once I made my mind up. I'm a man of my word," Davis said. "I committed to the Clippers and they committed to me."

The 29-year-old Davis, a former UCLA star who grew up in Los Angeles, averaged

"the silver lining is that we now have one of the best point guards in the NBA."

Coach Mike Dunleavy believes the Clippers have the two key players necessary for a contending team in Davis and center Chris Kaman.

"The toughest two pieces to find are a point guard and a center," Dunleavy said. "You look around, and the teams that win are teams with good point guards."

The 29-year-old Davis, a former UCLA star who grew up in Los Angeles, averaged

21.8 points, 7.6 assists, 4.7 rebounds and 2.33 steals while playing all 82 games last season for the Warriors.

A two-time All-Star, the 6-foot-3, 215-pound point guard has averaged 17.1 points, 7.2 assists, 4.1 rebounds and 1.95 steals during nine years in the league.

Since they are \$12 million under the salary cap, the Clippers are courting other free agents, including guard-forward Josh Smith and frontcourt player Emeka Okafor, both restricted free agents.

Golden State signs veteran swingman Maggette

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors signed Corey Maggette on Thursday, grabbing the Los Angeles Clippers' leading scorer with a lucrative free-agent deal.

A person with knowledge of the deal previously told The Associated Press that Maggette is getting a five-year deal worth around \$50 million to leave the Clippers, who signed Golden State's Baron Davis on Thursday in an effective swap of high-scoring stars.

The Warriors made another aggressive move Thursday, signing Los Angeles Lakers forward Ronny Turiaf to an offer sheet. The Lakers have seven days to decide whether to match Golden State's four-year, \$17 million contract offer, which would boost Los Angeles' payroll past the luxury tax.

Turiaf averaged 6.6 points and 3.9 rebounds in 78 games with the Western Conference champions last year, starting 21 games. The three-year veteran also blocks shots and plays strong low-post defense, two of Golden State's biggest problem areas.

Maggette, a 6-foot-6 swingman, is expected to be a good fit for Warriors' coach Don Nelson's frenetic, fast-paced style of play. The 28-year-old former Duke star appeared in 70 games last season with the Clippers, averaging 22.1 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.7 assists—all just off his career highs.

Davis opted out of a \$17 million deal for next season to accept a smaller salary to play in his hometown with Elton Brand and perhaps Maggette, who both opted out of their own contracts with the Clippers. Brand then signed with the Philadelphia 76ers on Wednesday, spurning a larger offer from Golden State—but the Warriors moved swiftly to sign Maggette, who received interest from five other teams, including Boston and San Antonio.

Maggette is expected to fill voids left by the departure of swingman Mickael Pietrus to Orlando, and the loss of forward Matt Barnes, whom Nelson said won't be back.

"He's been one of the most productive players in our league for the last several years, and provides us with additional versatility and veteran leadership," said Chris Mullin, the Warriors' top basketball executive.

Veterans Stephen Jackson and Al Harrington are the only regulars currently under contract, but Mullin has said the team will sign high-scoring guard Monta Ellis and center Andris Biedrins—both restricted free agents—at any price, hopefully to long-term deals.

Perry continues strong run at John Deere Classic

SILVIS, III. (AP)—Kenny Perry takes pride in his ability to absorb shots and bury them. And he's been doing plenty of both lately.

While others wonder why he's skipping majors, Perry's enjoying one of his best runs in more than two decades on the PGA Tour. That trend continued Thursday, when he fired a 6-under 65 in the first round of the John Deere Classic, and it won't stop if he keeps playing this way.

"That's OK," Perry said.

Perry chose not to try qualifying for the U.S. Open last month, and he won't be heading to the British Open next week. Instead, he'll play a secondary tournament in Milwaukee.

"I've been getting hammered for it," Perry said. "I'm proud of myself to be able to push that aside and go out there and shoot good scores."

The 47-year-old Perry is right

behind Ken Duke and Charlie Wi in a tie for third after winning two events last month. Woody Austin was in a group at 5-under, with 2007 Masters champion Zach Johnson five strokes behind the leaders.

Play was delayed briefly in the morning because of lightning in the area and again for 1 hour, 55 minutes in the afternoon. Perry was gone by then and, maybe, back in bed.

Unable to fall asleep after his hotel fire alarm went off at 3:30 a.m., a bleary-eyed Perry faced a different line of questions than those he's been hearing lately when he arrived at the range.

"I was just kind of dragging around on the range, and everybody looked at me, 'Did you stay here all night or what?'" Perry said.

He had enough energy to birdie his first three holes at TPC Deere Run, setting the tone for his round. He started on the par-5 No. 10 and drove a

sand wedge to 18 feet, then hit a 9-iron within 11 feet on the par-4 11th before driving a 5-iron to 10 feet on the par-3 12th.

"I just feel very comfortable here," he said. "It's kind of in my element here, in my wheelhouse."

He missed a 15-foot birdie putt on his final hole that would have put him in a tie for first. Even so, it was another good round, one of many in recent weeks.

"Well, I've had runs," Perry said.

None like this, though.

Perry had a memorable four-tournament run in 2003, when he won the Colonial and Memorial on back-to-back weeks and tied for third at the U.S. Open before taking first at the Greater Milwaukee Open a month later. This one is approaching the two-month mark.

It started when he lost a playoff to Ryuji Imada at the AT&T Classic in May and continued with victories at the Memorial and Buick Open last month. He usually plays well

The Kentucky native is more consumed with helping the U.S. win the Ryder Cup at Valhalla in Louisville, so he set a schedule

After all, he's playing well and Tiger Woods is out with a knee injury.

The Kentucky native is more consumed with helping the U.S. win the Ryder Cup at Valhalla in Louisville, so he set a schedule

that he thought would land him on the team.

"That's the only goal I've got," Perry said. "I'm not really focusing toward the majors or nothing. I'll get to play the PGA here in a few weeks and I'm looking forward to that."

While Perry kept his momentum going, Johnson hopes to build some this weekend.

He finished with a birdie on 18 and, more importantly, made it through the round pain-free after missing three weeks because of tendinitis in his left wrist. He also put himself in position to survive the cut after missing it last year.

"I'm hitting it pretty good," said Johnson, who grew up just over an hour away in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "My driver's coming along; I switched drivers this week. I just have to start making more putts. It's not like I hit it to 6 feet every hole, but I gave myself chances. I just didn't make many."

Howard leads Phillies in win over Cardinals



PHILA-
D E L -
P H I A
(A P) —

Ryan Howard homered twice and drove in three runs to help Philadelphia beat St. Louis 4-1 on Thursday.

Howard lined a two-run shot off Braden Looper (9-7) in the first and connected again in the sixth. He leads the National League with 27 homers, two more than teammate Chase Utley, and 83 RBIs.

Mets 7, Giants 3

At New York, Fernando Tatis homered, doubled twice and drove in four runs and New York won its sixth straight game.

The Mets' winning streak is their longest since a seven-game string in August 2006.

David Wright doubled twice, and scored the go-ahead run in a four-run seventh.

Brewers 11, Rockies 1

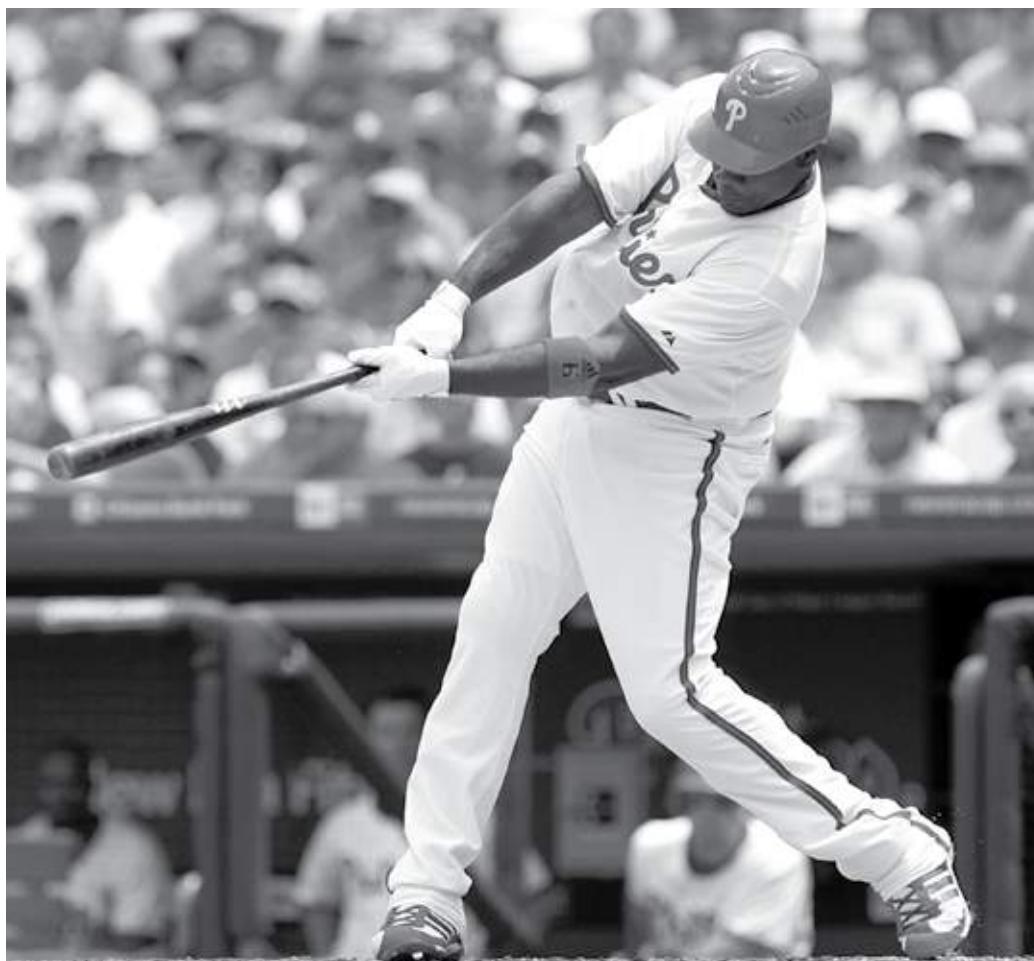
At Milwaukee, Dave Bush had a career-high 13 strikeouts for Milwaukee, and Corey Hart celebrated making the All-Star team with his 15th homer.

Bush (5-8) allowed one run and four hits over eight innings. He retired 23 of 24 batters after allowing a first-inning run.

Reds 12, Cubs 7

At Chicago, David Ross hit two of Cincinnati's seven homers, a barrage that included Ken Griffey Jr.'s 605th.

Edwin Encarnacion, Brandon Phillips, Adam Dunn and Joey Votto also homered for the Reds, who avoided a three-game sweep and tied their season high for homers—they had seven against the Cubs at



AP
Philadelphia Phillies' Ryan Howard swings on a two-run homer in the first inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Thursday, July 10, 2008, in Philadelphia.

Great American Ball Park on May 7.

Diamondbacks 7, Nationals 5, 11 innings

At Washington, Stephen Drew and Chad Tracy drove in runs in the 11th inning for Arizona, which blew a two-run lead in the ninth and a three-run lead in the 10th before beating Washington.

Drew's RBI double came with one out and Tracy run-scoring single was an out later and both were off Luis Ayala (1-5).

Marlins 5, Dodgers 4, 11 innings

At Los Angeles, Hanley Ramirez homered with two outs in the 11th inning to cap the first five-hit game of his career as Florida edged Los Angeles.

Ramirez, the starting shortstop for the NL in the All-Star game, singled his first three times up and doubled in his next at-bat. His 23rd homer came off Brian Falkenborg (1-2).

Joe Nelson (2-0) pitched two hitless innings for the win and Kevin Gregg got three outs for

his 18th save.

Indians 13, Rays 2

At Cleveland, Ben Francisco drove in a career-high four runs and the Cleveland Indians snapped a 10-game losing streak with a victory over Tampa Bay, the Rays' fourth straight loss.

Cleveland last lost 10 in a row in 1979 and avoided its longest streak in 77 years by hitting four home runs to overcome a 2-0 deficit. The last time the Indians lost 11 straight was 1931, on the way to a team-record 12

consecutive losses.

Twins 7, Tigers 6, 11 innings

At Detroit, Justin Morneau hit an 11th-inning homer, tying a career-high with his fifth hit, and Minnesota overcame a four-run deficit to beat Detroit.

The Twins, who stopped a three-game losing streak, trailed 6-4 in the ninth but tied the score against closer Todd Jones on two singles, an error and Joe Mauer's sacrifice fly.

Athletics 3, Mariners 2, 11 innings

At Oakland, California, Jack Cust and Kurt Suzuki hit solo homers in the ninth inning, and Emil Brown hit another solo shot in the 11th for Oakland.

Brown's first career game-winning home run gave Caesar Jimenez (0-1) his first career decision, after Huston Street (2-2) pitched two scoreless innings.

Cust led off the ninth with his 17th homer off Brandon Morrow. The Mariners' new closer got two strikeouts, but Suzuki hit his first career pinch-hit homer to send the game to extra innings.

Pirates 4, Yankees 2

At Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh, and Paul Maholm allowed two runs over eight inn-

ings as Pittsburgh beat the New York Yankees.

The last game of interleague play this season was the makeup of a June 26 rainout.

Maholm (6-5), who started that game and was trailing 3-0 when it was rained out, had a five-hit shutout going with two outs and none on in the seventh before the Yankees tied it on Bobby Abreu's two-run single. McLouth hit his 18th homer off Jose Veras (2-1) to take the lead.

TENNIS

From Page 28

gentility, Navratilova's sexuality. Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs filled the Astrodome, for crying out loud. Chris Evert, for a generation of drooling adolescent boys, was Jennifer Aniston 20 years before "Friends."

And then it changed. The American stars got old and were never replaced. Golf became the pastime of the American leisure class, and there certainly wasn't enough room for both. Since the emergence of Tiger Woods, tennis became, in the words of American tennis player Justin Gimelstob, "a niche sport."

But not last weekend. Tennis, even if briefly, became the headliner again. Viewership on NBC on Sunday was up 44 percent from last year's final. I'm not going to call Nadal vs. Federer the greatest match I've ever seen. We're too quick to forget that McEnroe and Borg engaged in two, perhaps three of the greatest matches ever, including a four-setter at the U.S. Open in 1981 that sent a defeated Borg from the stadium court to a waiting limousine to Kennedy

Airport to his home in Europe and into retirement shortly thereafter.

Nonetheless, Nadal vs. Federer is certainly on my short list of greatest tennis matches ever. Bud Collins, the encyclopedic tennis scribe/analyst, says it's the best men's final he's covered in 41 years of covering Wimbledon. More importantly, probably, is that John McEnroe himself called it the best match he's ever seen, and nobody has greater credibility in tennis in my book than McEnroe.

It was at the end of a seven-hour broadcast day, including two rain delays that essentially served the purpose of hosing us down from too much excitement, when McEnroe said that such a sublime experience simply had to bring Americans back to tennis in significant numbers.

I hope he's right, but I fear it's going to take so much more. After all, Nadal and Federer engaged in a great five-set final at Wimbledon last year and it's not like there was a great rush back to the game. Maybe if the Federer-Nadal rivalry continues on, say, through the U.S. Open in September and beyond, more people will come to the tent to

watch. But even then it's probably a leap of faith to bet on it.

First, it's going to be fascinating over the next six months to see how Federer responds to losing at Wimbledon. He's not yet 27 and obviously his skills aren't in erosion. I find him more admirable in defeat because of the way he kept coming back after being down two sets than I did during his run of dominance. Thing is, Borg and McEnroe, both at 26, were unable to overcome similar emotional letdowns after huge Grand Slam defeats in finals.

McEnroe wondered aloud as

much before Sunday's final. Pete Sampras was pretty much done at 29. There are no more Rod Lavers, no more Jimmy Connors either. I think we've seen the end of Federer's dominance of the men's tour.

Second, we don't like to admit it but we're more than a bit xenophobic when it comes to our sports. We're still begrudgingly accepting international stars in the NBA, even though they've been established since the early 1990s and players such as Toni Kukoc, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker won enough to be beyond

suspicion as "foreign players." Americans are the only people on the planet who don't embrace soccer, mostly because it ain't ours. And as much as we might be able to appreciate the greatness of Federer and Nadal, the bet here is we're not going to identify with them enough to become rabid followers of what they do. Andy Roddick and James Blake, bless them, simply don't win enough or do it charismatically enough to drive Americans to their TV sets or the tennis courts. They're both sweet enough guys; neither is inspiring. Neither has the force of personality that attracts casual sports fan who might pay closer attention if given a reason.

If there was some Tiger Woods-like figure on the men's side, we might see a spike in interest, or maybe brothers who have the impact and star appeal of Serena and Venus Williams. Watching Venus and Serena, my mind wandered off to the man who created this sister phenomenon: their father, Richard. The Times of London's eloquent columnist, Simon Barnes, wrote last week about first seeing Serena and Venus down in Florida at the Nick Bollettieri tennis acad-

emy, and noted "a lanky fellow (who) filmed every move for some mad purpose of his own. This was of course, the much-mocked dad, Richard Williams. He should be celebrated as the tennis genius of our age."

Yes, he should. With no formal higher education of his own to call on, with no experience teaching tennis or coaching athletes, Richard Williams envisioned a way that he and his daughters could successfully negotiate a sport that treated all three of them like aliens—and damn if he didn't do it. Not only did he have no shoulders to climb onto, he was standing in a sinkhole 10 feet deep. He taught Serena and Venus, he coached them, he held them out of juniors, he kept away outsiders who all felt they knew better than he did, he researched and consulted the best he could. And it worked. To absolute perfection.

Together, they have won 15 Grand Slam titles. Together, they're holding up women's tennis. Lindsay Davenport is a mom and essentially done. Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin retired. Poor Jennifer Capriati came and went, so much early hype hovering over her. Anna

single into shallow center.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 5

At Toronto, Adam Lind drove in the go-ahead run in the ninth and Toronto completed a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

Leading 5-4 in the ninth, Baltimore closer George Sherrill (2-4) struck out pinch-hitter Marco Scutaro but gave up a single to Rod Barajas and a double to Scott Rolen. Pinch-hitter Gregg Zaun was walked intentionally, and Lyle Overbay tied it with a sacrifice fly.

Royals 4, White Sox 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Mark Teahen's inside-the-park home run capped a four-run rally in the eighth inning as Kansas City avoided a three-game sweep to Chicago.

Mike Aviles and Jose Guillen hit RBI doubles to give the Royals a 2-1 lead, after Mark Buehrle (6-8) had shut them out on four hits over the first seven innings.

Pirates 4, Yankees 2

At Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh, and Paul Maholm allowed two runs over eight inn-

ings as Pittsburgh beat the New York Yankees.

The last game of interleague play this season was the makeup of a June 26 rainout.

Maholm (6-5), who started that game and was trailing 3-0 when it was rained out, had a five-hit shutout going with two outs and none on in the seventh before the Yankees tied it on Bobby Abreu's two-run single. McLouth hit his 18th homer off Jose Veras (2-1) to take the lead.

Kournikova is a calendar and hasn't played tennis in years. Individually, Venus and Serena have moved into the company of the all-time greats, and if they want to take time away now and then to pursue their own adult interests, then we can only hope they come back from their short sabbaticals reinvigorated since the game is so much better served when they're playing. We don't see Richard at the matches anymore, carrying signs or carrying on. But unlike the Marv Marinoviches of the world, all of whom plot courses for their children unsuccessfully, what Williams did lives. As Barnes wrote in the Times, "That one world-class player should emerge from the cracked public tennis courts (of Compton) is remarkable; that two should do so, and from the same family, is little short of a miracle."

The Williams' presence was indeed one of the tennis miracles produced last weekend. Nadal's victory over Federer was another. Increased interest in tennis, much as some of us hope for exactly that, would be still another miracle, and probably the most unlikely.

TNT clobbers Purefoods in fight-marred contest

ANTIPOLo, Philippines—Talk n Text kept its composure though losing temperamental import Terrence Leather with over nine minutes left to play, surviving the first stage of the 2008 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference wildcard plays with a 98-83 rout of Purefoods at the Ynares Center here Wednesday.

The Pals bucked the ejection of Leather against the Giants but now face the possibility of playing without an import in another knockout setto versus the Sta. Lucia Realtors Friday.

Leather figured in yet another ugly skirmish Wednesday, resulting to his ejection with the Pals comfortably ahead, 79-63, with 9:38 left to play.

The ex-South Florida standout had already been sanctioned for an earlier on-court outburst.



He also had near off-court fights with Air21's Homer Se, and Ginebra's Chris Alexander and Alex Crisano.

In a knockout match with the Giants, Leather flared up after being bodied up by Jondan Salvador. He threw the ball at Salvador, triggering a near free-for-all result-

ing to his ejection and a technical foul each on Salvador, James Yap, Enrico Villanueva, Ali

Peek and Robert Sanz.

"We approached the wildcard round as a 96-minute game. We've been through the first half. Now, we're to play the second half and hopefully Leather is spared of suspension," said Talk n Text coach Chot Reyes.

Talk n Text and Sta. Lucia knock each other out at 7 p.m. Friday in the same venue with the winner advancing to the

best-of-three quarterfinals versus Barangay Ginebra.

"Whatever the commissioner's decision will be, we have to be tougher Friday. All it takes is what we've got," said Reyes.

"We did well against Purefoods; the only negative was the altercation that happened," Reyes also said.

Play well the Pals did, enabling them to dominate the Giants practically all night. (NC)

Talk 'N Text 98—Alapag 26, Cardona 25, Allado 15, Leather 13, Washington 9, Peek 4, Chia 3, De Ocampo 2, Ritualo 1, De Guzman 0, Carey 0, Lao 0.

Purefoods 83—Simon 15, Yap 14, Salvador 10, Yap R. 10, Rhalmi 8, Villanueva 8, Raymundo 8, Evangelista 7, Larong 3, Sanz 0, Lanete 0, Castillo 0.

Quarterscores: 22-17, 48-36, 77-56, 98-83. (www.pba.com.ph)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball tourney fundraiser reset for next week

Instead of this weekend, the Sufa Softball Association's Softball Tournament Fundraiser has been moved to July 18, 19, and 20. One of the coordinators, Joe Salas, said the tournament was postponed for a week because of a scheduling conflict with another organization that would be using one of the venues this weekend. Sufa Softball's competition will both use the Miguel "Tan Ge" Field at the Oleai Sports Complex and the Capital Hill Field at the foot of Mt. Tapochao. Salas said, so far, seven teams have signed up with two others waiting in the wings. The seven confirmed teams are Kagman Mobil, Joe and Audy, Potu, Brother Hood, Belau team, Chelus, and Wetz. For more information about the Sufa Softball Association's Softball Tournament Fundraiser, call Salas at 483-

3501, Jovie Flores at 287-5515, or Delbert Sablan at 286-3146. (PR)

Islandwide slow-pitch meeting next Tuesday

The Saipan Softball Association will have an organizational meeting for the 2008 Islandwide Slow-pitch Softball League on Tuesday, July 15, 6m at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The agenda for the meeting include league ground rules, entrance fee, and this year's new format which will have the champion represent Saipan in the 2008 Marianas Cup set on Rota later this year. All interested teams' managers of representatives should attend the meeting on Tuesday. For more information about the 2008 Islandwide Slow-pitch Softball League, call Mario Sablan at 664-2503 or John Maratita at 322-5483. (PR)

OL'ACES

From Page 28

other 11 points to help Ol'Aces to an 88-72 spread heading to the fourth and final quarter.

It turned out Pelisamen was merely warming up in the first 30 minutes of the ballgame, as the former national team standout poured in another 15 points in the payoff period to lead Ol'Aces to the 36-point victory margin.

Cruz added 29 points in the win for Ol'Aces, which also drew 13 from do-it-all forward Pete Iguel and 10 from veteran

Ed Diaz. Ol'Aces won despite the ejection of 6'3" center Abong Camacho.

Estolas led Advance X-Terminators in the setback with 24 points, while Fitial and youngster Jonathan Lim added 21 and 14 markers.

In the battle for third, GEC Pawnshop won by default against Tasi Tours Giants.

The second game of the best-of-three series between Ol'Aces and Advance X-Terminators will take place tomorrow starting 5:30pm at the Oleai Sports Complex.

It will be preceded by the 2:30pm third place masters di-

vision game between CTSI Forwarders and Bank of Saipan and the 4pm masters division best-of-three finals pitting pennant winner Taga Warriors against GEC Pawnshop.

Ol'Aces 129—F. Pelisamen 51, Cruz 29, Iguel 13, Diaz 10, Rangamar 9, Lizama 7, R. Pelisamen 6, Camacho 4.

Advance X-Terminators 93—Estolas 24, Fitial 21, Lim 14, Mendoza 7, Gamboa 7, Barrios 7, Chan 6, Dayrit 5, Capalad 2.

Scoring by quarters: 38-22, 60-45, 88-72, 129-93.

Referees: Gabriel White and Dado Vistal.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

"This class is a limited only for 6-8-years-old and a real sports swimming class, not baby swimming, not kids recreation. The goal of this class is for the children to take part in future swim meets," according to Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura.

One such swimmer Tsunami Saipan has trained its sights on is 7-year-old Vincent Fajardo, who took part in the club's most recent American Red Cross Water Safety Course.

He added that Tsunami Saipan is also currently looking

at the possibility of opening an even younger beginners class where 5-year-olds can train with the club.

"We want to make new generation swimmers of the CNMI. Next, when we will be ready we want to start a class for 5-year-olds, I hope to invite kids who showed promise in the ARC Water Safety Course that ended just this Saturday. I am sure we will be able to setup soon."

Among the children that showed promise during the clinic, according to Kimura, were 5-year-old Yuma Fitial and 4-year-olds Juhn Tenorio and Maxine Rabago.

Tsunami Saipan concluded its latest ARC Water Safety Course

last Saturday at Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan with 63 students receiving their certificate of completions.

Club president Stan Good earlier said of the 63 who graduated, 22 were from Level I, 16 from Level 2, 19 from Level 3, and four in Level 6. Level 1 is for beginners, while Level 6 is for advance swimmers.

Last Saturday's conclusion of Tsunami Saipan's ARC Water Safety Course was its third for the 2007-2008 season. In all, a total of 188 have already leaned to swim under the fledgling club's program, broken down as follows: 56 in October 2007; 69 in April 2008, and 63 in July 2008.

VILLAFRIA

From Page 28

Oceania Championships.

Villafria said his half marathon experience was especially helpful because, aside from Beach Road being level, the distance is almost the same as the Mt. Fuji Marathon.

On expectations about his race in Japan, the longtime non-resident worker on Saipan said he will be happy just to finish the Mt. Fuji Marathon.

"My only goal is just to finish the course and to meet the time limit on every stage. I'm okay with that, at least my effort will not go into waste," he said.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon, or Fuji Tozan Race, is composed

of two legs—a 15-km race to the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Villafria also took time to thank God foremost for giving him the opportunity to join the Mt. Fuji Marathon.

He also extended his gratitude to the Legal Department of Tan Holdings Corp. namely Pixley, Ariel Mariano, Ron Biggers, Susan Espanilo, and Maricar Guinto as well as the company's senior vice president Eli Arago.

Ditto for all the sponsors of his "Run for Run" fundraising event. He also tipped his hat to Luen Fung Enterprises Saipan for shouldering the cost of his round-trip ticket to Japan. Last but not the least, he also thanked Coco

Restaurant, its owner Kyung Rae Seo, and his co-workers for all the support they've given him the past several years.

Villafria helped an all-Filipino team composed of biker Rene Calage and swimmer Rezne Wong to sweep their own Pacific Islands Club Double this year as their relay team topped the 6th XTERRA Saipan Championship and 19th Tagaman Triathlon.

He also placed third in this year's 10K Fun Run in the 3rd Annual Saipan Marathon and 26th Half Marathon last January.

In December last year, Villafria single-handedly took on the almost 20-kilometer Christmas Island Relay run from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi, finishing second to Team We Are Legend.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	55	36	.604	—
Boston	55	39	.585	1 1/2
New York	49	43	.533	6 1/2
Toronto	45	47	.489	10 1/2
Baltimore	44	46	.489	10 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	53	38	.582	—
Minnesota	51	41	.554	2 1/2
Detroit	46	45	.505	7
Kansas City	41	52	.441	13
Cleveland	38	53	.418	15

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	55	37	.598	—
Oakland	50	42	.543	5
Texas	48	45	.516	7 1/2
Seattle	36	56	.391	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	50	43	.538	—
Florida	48	44	.522	1 1/2
New York	48	44	.522	1 1/2
Atlanta	43	49	.467	6 1/2
Washington	35	58	.376	15

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	55	37	.598	—
Milwaukee	51	41	.554	4
St. Louis	51	42	.548	4 1/2
Cincinnati	44	49	.473	11 1/2
Pittsburgh	43	48	.473	11 1/2
Houston	42	50	.457	13

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB

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**Howard leads
Phillies in win
over Cardinals**

Ryan Howard homered twice and drove in three runs to help Philadelphia beat St. Louis 4-1 on Thursday.

26

Saipan Tribune

Sports

28 SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ol'Aces take Game 1, demolish Advance

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The first round goes to Freddie Pelisamen and powerhouse Ol'Aces after they beat pennant champions Advance X-Terminators black and blue in the opener of the best-of-three championship of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ol'Aces crushed their first round tormentors from the get-go and sustained it until the final buzzer with Pelisamen, long the most dominant offensive force in the CNMI, scoring a season-high 51 points in the team's 129-93 demolition job of the Bug Busters.

Pelisamen didn't waste any time on taking over Game 1 of the finals, as the cat-quick 5'9" swing-man punctured the hoop for 15 points in the first quarter.

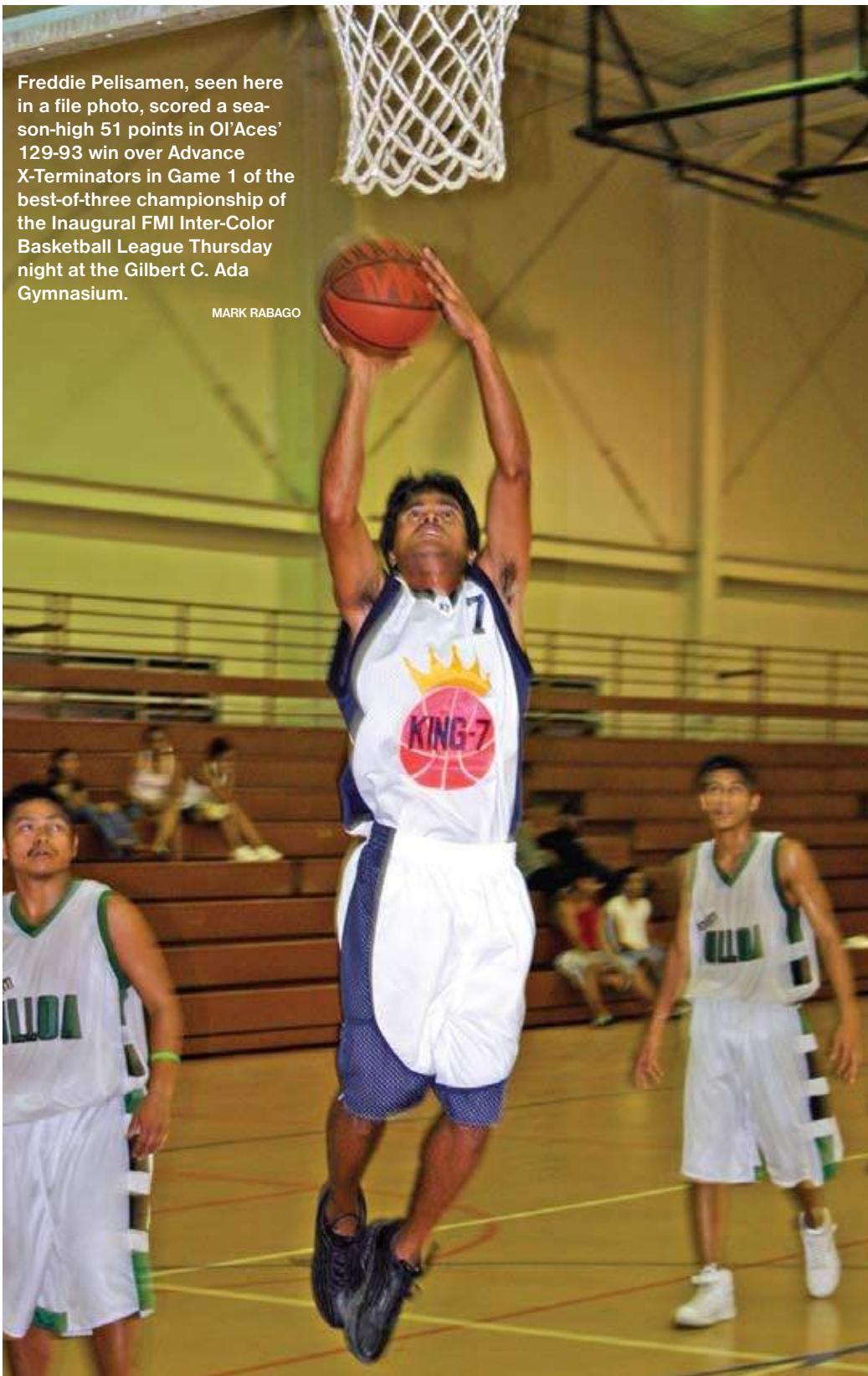
Surprisingly, he wasn't alone in doing a number on Advance X-Terminators as guard Jericho Cruz also erupted for 14 of his own as Ol'Aces took a commanding 38-22 lead after the first 10 minutes of play.

Pelisamen's fireworks didn't stop there as the Ol'Aces offensive juggernaut fired another 10 markers in the second to give the Oleai team a 15-point advantage, 60-45, at the half.

Advance X-Terminators' Mutt-and-Jeff tandem of Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. and Kelvin Fitial tried to rally back their team in the third, combining for 17 markers.

However, Pelisamen was simply unstoppable, scoring an-

See OL'ACES on Page 27



Freddie Pelisamen, seen here in a file photo, scored a season-high 51 points in Ol'Aces' 129-93 win over Advance X-Terminators in Game 1 of the best-of-three championship of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO



Tsunami Saipan hopes to train new generation of swimmers



MARK RABAGO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan is looking to open a beginners class for 5-year-olds in the near future.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be launching a new beginners class for the upcoming 2008-2009 season, where children from six to eight years old are invited to swim with the fledgling club.

See TSUNAMI on Page 27

Davis back in hometown, joins Clippers

Baron Davis flashed his sparkling sense of humor often on his return to Los Angeles. He'll probably need it since he's going to be playing for the Clippers.



25

Villafraria leaves for Mt. Fuji Marathon Monday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



Longtime runner Ronald Villafraria will be flying to Japan this Monday, 11 days in advance of his participation in the Mt. Fuji Marathon set for July 25.

The Coco Restaurant employee said he is leaving Saipan early to allow his body to acclimate to Japan's colder weather.

Villafraria said he will also be doing some training while in the Land of the Rising Sun's capital, as he will be jogging around the Imperial Palace to prepare for the 36-kilometer challenge.

The veteran long-distance runner, who wore the CNMI's colors in the recent 2008 Oceania Championships held here on Saipan, said he has prepared for the Mt. Fuji Marathon by running at least three hours a day the past three months.

Villafraria said he has become a familiar fixture in Marpi and Mt. Tapochao the past several weeks because that's where he and Steve Pixley have been training. Pixley will also run the Mt. Fuji Marathon but will leave at a later date.

Ronald Villafraria in action in the men's 5000m of the 2008 Oceania Championships held last month at the Oleai Track and Field.

He added that he is thankful for Northern Marianas Athletics for picking him to represent the CNMI in the 5000m and half marathon event of the 2008

See VILLAFRARIA on Page 27

Tennis savors a magnificent Final Four



By MICHAEL WILBON
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The folks who've stood by tennis as its stature diminished over the years are over the moon today. Not in the last 20 years have they had so much to celebrate, certainly nothing as riveting as Rafael Nadal's absurdly dramatic victory over Roger Federer in Sunday's Wimbledon men's final. And 24 hours earlier there was the uniquely American success story of the Williams sisters, citizens of the world now but from and of Compton, Calif., playing out a reality that 25 years ago only their father dared dream.

The sports world doesn't stop for tennis the way it used to 30 years ago when the game enjoyed its Golden Age. Once upon a time the big stars in tennis, their voices and hairstyles and idiosyncrasies, were as familiar to us as anything belonging to baseball and basketball superstars. We knew all about McEnroe's tirades, Borg's reluctance, Nastase's crudeness, Ashe's scholarly

See VILLAFRARIA on Page 27